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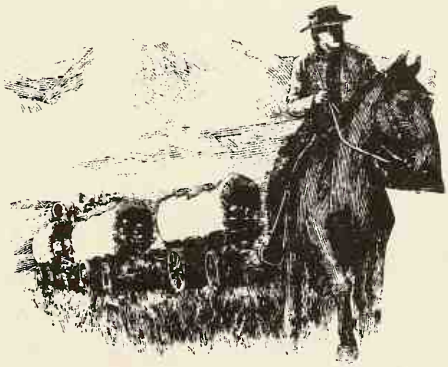
Tidewater to Texas:

The Hurt Family

A History

by

Ronald Wayne Hurt



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The Hurt Family

A History

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Dedication

This book is for my daughters, Erin and Emily. May they and their generation live happy and prosperous lives.

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Tidewater to Texas

The research for this book started in Virginia, turned south through the Carolinas to Georgia, west to Kentucky and Tennessee and on to the Deep South in Alabama and Mississippi. I even stumbled across Hurt, Virginia; Hurtsboro, Alabama; and Hurt's X Roads in Tennessee. My search finally ended in Texas and Oklahoma. I owe this opportunity to a seventeenth century Englishman named William Hurt. Other Hurts came to Virginia, but he was the only one with the foresight to survive. If you are a Hurt and can trace your ancestors to a southern state, the odds are that your search will end up with this William.

The origin of the Hurt name is also interesting. There are many derivatives. In England and northern Europe, you'll see Hurtt, Hurte, Herte, Hart, Heart, etc. Most genealogy books take the easy way out and claim the Hurt name is in some way associated with the deer, or stag. Hart is an Old English name meaning deer. Additional research has found that the Hurt name may also be derived from Hurtleberry. In *Surnames of the United Kingdom*, Henry Harrison describes Hurt as a Middle English variation of Hart. If the name is traced back to Old English, it is spelled Hurtt and finally

Heor(o)t, which is Old Norwegian. Could the original Hurts in England have been Danish intruders in the ninth and tenth century who were searching for a warmer climate, fertile soil, or both?

The Domesday book, an eleventh century census demanded by William the Conqueror to assay and tax his new kingdom shows Hurts owning land. Alderwasley Hurt was enrolled at Ashborne, Derbyshire, and charged to possess "quarters of armor, and granted the right to emblazon his shield with a peculiar heraldry that included: A feeze between 3 cinquifolis, a wolf, a hart (deer), and a buglehorn. Because of his loyalty to William, Alderwasley Hurt was granted the motto: **Mane praedem vesperi spolium**:[1] liberally translated as "Don't let your hands spoil the land you've been given at night," but then understood to mean: "I hold this land as a bounty from the evening." The primary focus of both William and Alderwasley was to control and profit from the land, and protect it from the barons (*landeschknicts ut witenagemot*) opposed to the Conqueror. William, duke of Normandy (northern France), wanted good farmers who were loyal to him, and by adding the various motifs on the Hurt shield made various grants: The *cinquefolis* is from the Latin *quinquefolium* that was roughly translated from the Greek *pentaphylion* and was a five-petal flower that, by the time of the Norse advance into Europe and ultimately leading to the 1066 invasion of England

was a special conventionalized heraldic flower showing five lobelike petals; it could only be worn by members of the nobility who had immediate access to the king, or it was used in the decoration of church architecture. The incorporation of the wolf is also important, for it symbolized that William allowed Alderwasley Hurt the rare privilege of sport hunting (hunting for the pleasure of the sport and not for game food). The hart (recorded in Old English as *heorot*, coming from the ancient Norse *hjörtr)* represented royal permission to hunt in the royal forces for meat, a food that was exclusively for the king and his special friends (common people didn't eat meat by law, and were executed if caught hunting or consuming meat). The buglehorn (from the Old French *buculus*, meaning "young steer") again was a patent of permission to eat meat, and by doing so the consumer was expected to serve in the king's army, blowing on the horns of the steer (*bos*) announcing the arrival of the king and his troops. The motto, coupled with the heraldic device (or shield) was a pledge by the king to the fiefholder and by the fiefholder to the king that they would be mutually loyal to one another (*enfangentheof*) and come to the assistance of one another when either was attacked or in danger. Furthermore, with the inclusion of the word "spolium" William promised Hurt that if the latter prospered in possession and progeny, he would gain other favors. The

employment of the word "vesperi" confirmed all gifts and promised the protection of the Church and its martial bishops and abbots who also rode to war. These pledges were sealed with wax at Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and throughout the dooms (a word stemming from the Old Norse *dœmr* meaning "judgment" or "court") and counties.[2]

Where did William Hurt come from? English records from Oxfordshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire show a number of Hurts dating back to William the Conqueror in the eleventh century. While the Hurts who rode with William were knighted and gained nobility, most were farmers. Many of these were simple peasants on the lands owned by the ennobled Hurts who later took their lord's surname as their own. Many remained poor; impoverished Hurts lived primarily in Nottinghamshire. Some were more fortunate than others; they traced their descent from Alderwasley Hurt, and lived in Oxfordshire. To separate the two groups, English nobility that traced itself back to William and the Conquest used the article "le" in front of their name; it means "the" and was understood to represent letters patent (or official recognition) of their special status. The William Hurt who came to this country in 1650 could not even afford his own passage to Virginia.

Oscar Hurt, who did a masterful job of tracing the Hurts in the old South, cites three Hurts on the Hundred Year Rolls of Oxfordshire, England. He

names Amicia le Hurt, Hugh le Hurt and Thomas le Hurt, who are all listed for 1273. John Hurt was Vicar of St. Mary's Church in 1461 and Richard Hurt was mayor of Nottingham, England, from 1595 to 1602 and again in 1609. Then, there is a William Hurt, who was christened in Walesby on January 23, 1631. Could this be the William Hurt who came to Virginia in 1650? Only further research will tell.

Was William Hurt the first Hurt to leave England for the Americas? No, he was the only one of record who survived. At the time William Hurt came to the new world, three out of every four people who stepped ashore in Virginia and the other colonies died within a short time. A John Hurt went to the Somer Islands in 1684. A Robert Hurt moved to Barbados in 1635 and Richard Hurt traveled to the Somer Islands in 1635.

The first Hurt we have record of in Virginia is Toby Hurt who was in Elizabeth City in 1623. Poor Toby is never heard of again.

Edward Hurt, another Englishman, landed in Virginia the same year as William Hurt. Like Toby, Edward disappears from future records.

The resilient William Hurt, however, survived. His name is carried by thousands of Hurts today who may have little knowledge of where their name and heritage came from.

NOTES

[1]*Domesday Book*, John Morris (gen. ed.), Vol. 27: *Derbyshire*, ed. Philip Morgan from a draft trans. by Sara Wood (Phillimore, UK: Chichester, 1978), p. 10, folio 277, b, *Herct.* Hurt was registered as possessing 2 c. of taxable land (land that could be worked by 2 ploughs), 8 villagers, 2 small lease holders with 5 ploughs, woodland and pasture in 2 places that are 2 leagues long and 2 leagues wide.(a league measured anywhere from 2.4 to 4.6 miles at this time since measurement had not yet been standardized). The value was determined to be 60 shillings (*s.*) before the Conquest (1066), and 30*s.* by 1086.

[2]For further information on this period, and analysis of words used, see: Arthur Frederick Ide, *Old Norse and Old English Words: An Etymological Study of English Language Antecedents* (Toronto: Historical Studies Press, 1976), pp. 275-312.

Chapter 1

William Hurt
--The First Generation--

William Hurt's first glimpse of the new land in October of 1650 was undoubtedly a welcomed one.[1] After more than a month at sea on a ship that was about the size of Columbus' *Nina*, William Hurt got his first view of Virginia. The thick forests, abundant fowl and water teeming with fish were positive signs that William had made the right decision to migrate from his native England.

Although there are no records that give the name of the ship transporting William Hurt to Virginia, other records show the vessel landed at Charles City. This is at the mouth of the Appomattox River across from the Bermuda Hundred, one of the first towns established in Virginia. Charles City is now called City Point.[2]

October was the usual month for immigrants to arrive in Virginia. Because of the growing tobacco industry, ship owners scheduled voyages to leave England in September so the ships would deliver their cargo and passengers in time to pick up the valuable hogsheads of tobacco for the return voyages.[3]

In 1649, merchants and ship's captains allowed six to twelve weeks for the voyage from England to Virginia. But the voyage for William Hurt, if it was anything like those described by historians, was far from routine. The conditions on board during voyages to the New World ranged from discomfort to extreme hardships. Owners and masters of ships often tried to increase their profits by cutting back on food allotments or cramming too many passengers aboard their small ships.[4]

The motive for the ship's owner was pure profit since each passenger paid a sum of about 6 pounds sterling. As a result, it wasn't unusual to find several passengers dying enroute because of poor diets or meager accommodations. In William Hurt's case, twenty-four other people shared cramped quarters during the journey.[5]

Indentured or Free

The first bit of recorded history concerning William Hurt shows up on October 26, 1650, when Stephen Hamblyn was granted 1,250 acres in Charles City County *"upon the head of Wionoke (south), Matsheos Creek and the land of Mr. Cantrell (east), Old Man's Creek, Queen's Creek (west) and into the woods (north)."*

Hamblyn received the land for transporting, or paying the cost of the voyage, for 24 people. They were John Bay, Henry Rice, Anth Chandler, William Pylor, William Choldnedge, Richard Arundell,

Thomas Mason, George Haynes, Sam'll Parry, Thomas Powell, Peter Mason, **William Hurt**, Thomas Howell, Samual Goodwin, Thomas Harris, Robert Taylor, Thomas Richard, Jonas Alpott, John Woodson, Edward Buckingham, Robert Fryth, Gab Robinson, Clement Whidow, Robert Crouch and Edward Thurston.[6]

This brings up one of the many questions Hurt researchers have about William Hurt. Was he a free man or indentured?

In many instances, the cost of passage was paid by someone other than the passenger. In 1650, the majority of the people coming to Virginia were indentured servants. Their fares were paid by either Virginia residents who intended to use the indentured servants for laborers, or investors who would sell the servants to the highest bidder.

The cost of passage to the colonies wasn't cheap. Six pounds sterling was the usual fee. In William's case, and those accompanying him, Stephen Hamblyn paid the fee.

Hamblyn had another reason for paying the fare for these men. It was called the head right grant. Here's how it worked: for every person Hamblyn paid to have transported to the new world, he received fifty acres of land. This grant was to encourage the populating of the colonies. In Hamblyn's case, by paying one hundred and forty-four pounds for twenty-four people to be transported, he received 1,250 acres of land. This

meant he was paying about $2.85 an acre in today's currency for prime Virginia real estate.[7]

Hamblyn made quite a career of transporting Englishmen to Virginia. His first venture was in 1638 when he transported four people.[8] In 1642, Hamblyn transported eight people before his largest deal in 1650, where he transported William Hurt and twenty three others.[9] In 1666, we find reference to the death of Hamblyn and the end of his land dealings that allowed him to acquire more than 3,000 acres.[10]

After the 1650 landing of William Hurt, we find no mention of him in Virginia records until 24 years later. What did William do in the interim? Was he an indentured servant, a freeman working for another landowner, or did he have enough money to buy a small plot of land?

History shows that the indentured servants came by the shiploads after 1630. In fact, the majority of Englishmen arriving in Virginia between 1620 and 1650 were bondsmen. After the restoration of Charles II in 1660, servants were sold in great numbers to Virginia. In 1650, when William Hurt arrived, the term of some indentured servants was 10 years or more. The normal term was from seven to eight years. After the restoration, the term was reduced to four years.[11]

Fifty acres of land sold for about 6 shillings in 1650. It seems unlikely William would have had the resources to buy his own land since he evidently

couldn't afford the 6 pounds sterling fare for passage from England to Virginia. The odds seem to be in favor of William entering the colonies as an indentured servant. The wording used in Hamblyn's grant also suggests William Hurt was an indentured servant. The word "transported" was used to describe an indentured status.

William Hurt--Landowner

Whatever his status on arrival, we don't hear of William again until February 18, 1674. On that day he patented 213 acres of land in St. Stephen's Parish, New Kent County, Virginia. William received his land for transporting three people: *"Thomas Brownell and wife, and Lambo--Negroe."*[12]

The land patent reads, in part:

> *"...To all ye whereas, Now know ye that I the said Wm Berkely Knt Governor doe the Consent of the Councill of State accordingly give and grant unto William Hurt two Hundred and thirteen acres of land lying in St. Stephen's Parish in New Kent County, beginning at a white oke corner of Peck's land thence running N E by N 42 poles to a red oke thence E S E 1/2 S poles to a red oke thence E N E 63 poles to a red oke upon the side of a hill, thence S 200 poles to a red oke upon the side of another hill then west 89 poles to a red oke*

by the mill path, then W N W 100 poles to a Spanish oke by a branch then N 141 poles to a hicory then N N E 10 poles to the place where it began. The said land is due unto the said Wm Hurt by and for the transportation of 3 persons. To have and to hold or to be held or yielding or paying on provision dated the 18th Feb 1674..."[13]

This land later became part of King and Queen County when that county was formed from part of New Kent County in 1691. It was probably near the present-day town of Aylett, Virginia, where many of the early Hurts lived.[14]

The location of William Hurt is further substantiated by a grant awarded on the same day to his neighbor, William Herndon:

"...Give and Grant unto Wm Herndon Sixty four Acres of Land in St. Stephens Parish in New Kent County Joyneing to the Devident he now lives upon, beginning at the S W Corner of the said Devident running E S E 1/4 S 69 poles along Wm Hurts line to a red oke E N E 63 poles to a red oke upon the side of a hill." [15]

Earlier, Herndon received 1,800 acres for transporting 36 people.

If William Hurt was indentured, however, the first property he could have called his own would have been fifty acres he received from the English Government on finishing his endentured service. This was standard practice. In addition, indentured servants were sometimes allowed to harvest the tobacco remaining after the master's first cutting. The servants were allowed to sell this tobacco and keep the money for themselves. If William's master allowed this practice, this would have given William additional money to begin his life as a free man. William Hurt's first recorded land deed was in 1691. This means it took him at least fifteen years to accumulate the money necessary for not only transporting his own servants, but also paying other necessary land fees. The person receiving the head right grant had to pay as much as eighty pounds, or thirty pounds of tobacco, for the commissioner's court to draw up the deeds. Regardless of the expense, the reason Englishmen sold themselves into temporary slavery was the opportunity to buy land and start a new life in the colonies.

Survival In The New World

Since William Hurt was probably about 20 years old when he arrived in Virginia, the first mention of his acquiring land would have taken place when William was about 44 years old. Due to Virginia's high mortality rate at that time, William had already surpassed the average lifespan of a

male, which was about 39 years old. By this time, he and his wife Margaret had at least three children: Isabella, William, Jr., and John--my direct descendent.[16]

Life for the early Hurt family would have been one of hard work. Even if William had indentured servants or slaves working for him, he and his sons would still have been intimately involved in working the land. One of the most difficult jobs in farming of that day was clearing the land and cultivating with primitive tools.

Although the Indians were not much of a threat to the Hurts and their neighbors, Virginians along the coast were constantly on guard against pirates. Those classified as pirates were actually Dutch privateers who preyed on some of the planters who lived alongside the larger rivers. It's noteworthy that William Hurt's land was back from the rivers on a small stream. This was land that could be more easily defended.

Several years before William Hurt is first recorded as owning land, natural disasters added to Virginia's already high mortality rate. On August 27, 1667, the worst hurricane ever experienced by Virginia destroyed more than ten thousand houses and all the standing crops. A few years later, in the winter of 1672-73, during an intense cold spell, an epidemic killed more than half of the colony's cattle. The determined colonists prevailed, however, and Virginia survived. These events could

have had an adverse affect on William Hurt's early efforts to expand his land holdings.

Even though Indians, pirates and bad weather affected life in King William County where William Hurt lived, the deeds of Nathaniel Bacon, Jr., influenced the development of what was to become Caroline County more than any other event during the seventeenth century.

Bacon, a hotheaded young planter related to the family of Sir Francis Bacon, owned a large farm on the outer edge of King William County. When Governor Berkeley procrastinated in acting against marauding Indians, Bacon raised his own army to defend the county. Many of the colonists in King William County joined him. Records don't show if William Hurt was one of this number, but many of his neighbors were. Berkeley declared Bacon a traitor. Bacon, who had raised 500 men, marched to Jamestown and burned the settlement. Berkeley and some of his supporters fled to Maryland. Bacon then turned his army against the Indians and defeated them. Unfortunately, on October 18, 1676, Bacon died after a short illness. His army disbanded without its leader. Berkeley returned and sought revenge on every person he could find who was associated with Bacon. Many were hanged and their land taken. It appears that William Hurt wasn't involved since his newly acquired land was nestled among the larger estates of the Byrds and Lees, who remained loyal to

Berkeley. Bacon's defeat of the Indians, however, was beneficial to the Hurts and many others because it opened the land west and north of King William County for settlement. The Hurts would take full advantage of this new frontier during later generations.

From Farmer To Planter

The next record we have of William Hurt takes place in 1701 when he received a land grant of 298 acres in the Pamunkey Neck for transporting six people from England. At that time, the land was in King and Queen County, but became part of King William County after 1702. The land grant read:

> *"To all---whereas---Now know you that of the said Francis Nicholson Esq. Governor and do with if and advice and consent of the Council of State accordingly give and grant unto William Hurt Senr two hundred ninety and eight acres of land lying in the Pamunkey being bounded as follows: Beginning at a Corner hiccory called Peter Whites corner hiccory hard by Richard Yarbroughs plantation and running thence southwest by south four hundred: forty pole to a corner red oake thence northwest sixty nine poles to a corner Hiccory thence north north east three hundred seventy six poles to a Corner hiccory thence east one*

hundred four poles thence East by south forty one poles through a meadow all along by John Hurts and Richard Yarbroughs plantation thence east half a point north sixteen pole thence south west twenty south west twenty one pole to the begining place the said land being due unto the said William Hurt by and for the transportation of six persons into this colony whose names are to be in the records mentioned under patent. To have and to hold and to be held yielding and paying and provided and Given under my hand and ye scale of this colony, 24th day of October anno Domini 1701.

fr. Nicholson[17]

The names of the six people William Hurt transported into the colony were William Hurt, Sr., Margaret Hurt, Edward Freeland, Herbert Boanhan, Duksell Brown and Eliza Lea. The John Hurt named in the grant was William's son.

Taking Liberties With The Law

The fact that William Sr., is listed as being transported in 1701 has caused confusion among those researching records of the early Hurts. Census records are consistent in showing William Hurt, Sr., as a permanent resident of Virginia before 1701, and as the only William Hurt, Sr., in Virginia after

1701. Since William Hurt was about 70 years old in 1701, it's unlikely he and his wife Margaret made a roundtrip to England just to add another 100 acres of land to their plantation. The answer to this puzzle is probably more easily explained by the liberties the early Virginians took with the head right system.

Ralph T. Whitelaw, in his "History of Northampton and Accomack Counties," tells about land grants in early Colonial Virginia and how they were handled, or in this case, mishandled: *"In spite of the precautions presumably taken, there was much padding of head right lists and a number of names are duplicated in separate patents to different people for different lands. Among the headrights listed in a certificate by the Accomack Commissioners in 1672 to Edmund Scarburth III, was included 'his owne transportation three tymes.'"*

William Hurt, Sr., had his eye on the 298 acres next to his son John's land and decided to add his name and his wife's to the list of the four others he transported. When he turned in his list to the county commissioners, the names were promptly recorded. When the Governor received the application certified by the county commissioners, he had no idea of the deception and issued the grant. Land was so plentiful in Virginia, a little fraud was acceptable. In fact, Virginians even resorted to copying names from old records and tombstones for head right land. Colonial

secretaries winked at these violations of the law and even sold head rights in the open market for a nominal price of five shillings.[18]

The Legacy

The last mention we have of William Hurt is in 1704 on the Virginia Quit Rent Rolls for King William County, Virginia. William, Sr., was shown as being taxed for 250 acres of land; his son William, Jr., for 90 acres; and another son, John, for 500 acres.[19]

In 1722, James Hurt, a grandson of William, Sr., makes reference to his grandfather's will. The will of William Hurt, Sr., would have been invaluable in researching the history of the Hurt family patriarch, unfortunately, it was destroyed when the King William Courthouse burned in 1885. We do know, however, that William, Sr., was alive in 1704 and dead by 1722. William, Sr., would have been about 70 years old in 1704 and close to 90 years old in 1722.[20]

In either case, he lived to a ripe old age and saw his sons and grandsons firmly established as yeoman farmers and planters. His descendents would continue his example of land acquisition up to the Civil War. Until the South was turned topsy-turvy by the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Hurts would, on the whole, live long lives, have large families, acquire land in states from Virginia to Mississippi, serve with distinction in the American

wars and be involved in all levels of government. William Hurt's family was his legacy.

William Hurt's Children

William and Margaret Hurt had at least three children: Isabella, William, Jr., and John. Oscar Hurt, who researched the Hurt family for years, believed there may have been other children, but researchers can find no records to prove this.

My direct descendent is John Hurt. Chapter Two is devoted to this second-generation Hurt.

Isabella Hurt, William Hurt Senior's only daughter, was probably born during the early part of the 1660s. In 1682, she married Philip Pendleton, son of Henry Pendleton of Norwich, England. Isabella and Philip apparently lived in King and Queen County, Virginia. It is possible Isabella lived in that part of King and Queen County that became King William County in 1702. Philip Pendleton, a schoolmaster, is said to have died in 1721. Their children were:

1. Henry Pendleton, who was born in 1683 and died in 1721. He married Mary Taylor, daughter of James Taylor. She married Edward Watkins after Henry's death.

2. Elizabeth Pendleton, who was born about 1685 and died about 1761. She married Samuel Clayton.

3. Rachel Pendleton, who married John Voss.

4. Philip Pendleton, who married Elizabeth Rolland.

5. John Pendleton, who was born in 1691 and died in 1775. He married a Miss Tinsley.

6. Catherine Pendleton, who was born in 1693. She married John Taylor.

7. Isabella Pendleton, who married Richard Thomas.[21]

William Hurt, Jr., another son, was born about 1655. Our first record of this second generation Hurt is found in 1702. Like his father, William was interested in acquiring land. He used the head right system, as many others did before him. The following document is proof of his land grant:

"To all---whereas--Now know ye that I the said Francis Nicholson Esq Governor---to with and advice and consent of ye Councill

of State accordingly give unto William Hurt, Jun. ninety three acres of land lying and being in Pamunkey in King and Queen County and bounded as followeth: beginning at a sarsafrax tree being a divideing Corner tree between of sd Hurt and John Oakes standing by ye run of ye Bryery branch running thence north west sixty eight pole to a Corner Hiccory thence south west by south two hundred: Sixty four poles to a white oake at ye Spring branch thence down ye Spring branch south east and by East thirty four pole to ye Briery Branch to ye run thereor to a Corner Beach now marked for a corner for ye sd Hurt thence down ye run of Bryery branch or Swamp north east by north twenty pole north east half a point east one hundred forty and four pole thence north east by north eighty nine pole to ye beginning sarsafrax the said Land being due unto ye said William Hurt by and for the transportation of two persons into this colony whose names are to be in ye records and mentioned under this patent as have & to hold & to be held & yielding & paying & provided & given under my hand and the seale of the Colony this first Day of April anno Dom 1702.

fr Nicholson"

The names of the two persons transported to Virginia were James Quarles and Thomas Radson.[22]

Later in 1702, this land in King and Queen County was part of the section that was carved out to be part of King William County. It is near where Herring Creek empties into the Mattaponi River, about two miles upstream from the present day town of Aylett.[23]

The last reference we have of William Hurt, Jr., is in the Virginia Quit Rent Rolls for 1704 for King William County, Virginia., where he was taxed for ninety-three acres of land.[24]

William Hurt's Virginia

When William Hurt arrived in Virginia in 1650, the population of the colonies was 50,000. By the time of his death, in the early 1700s, the population had swelled to more than a quarter of a million.

Virginians in William Hurt's day lived in predominately rural settings. More than ninety percent of the people were farmers, or, if they owned enough land, planters. William Hurt was among the yeoman farmers who bought farms of five to six hundred acres in the more settled areas next to the holdings of the larger planters such as the Byrds, Lees, Fitzhughs and Carters. Those with the larger holdings eventually established themselves as the ruling class of Virginia.

The typical farmer tended to every detail of his operation. He scrimped, haggled with tradesmen, pinched pennies and drove his slaves, often working in the field with them. The yeoman farmers, who often classified themselves as planters, too, owned few or no servants or slaves and frequently moved to better farmsites on the frontier when they had exhausted the land from raising tabacco.[25]

The Tidewater region, where the early Hurts lived, was the heart of the tobacco industry. Since that region had no large port such as Charleston, South Carolina, the tobacco trade was carried on from planters' wharfs and required no middlemen. Close examination of the Hurts' land shows it was usually near a branch (creek) or river. The tobacco was sold on consignment to a London company which carried the cargo in company ships for a fee and sold it for a commission. The farmer used the money to buy various goods and supplies for which he was charged freight, handling and service. When a framer's crop failed to cover his orders, he pledged his next year's crops as security. These pledges were handed down from father to son. Many of the first families of Virginia were mortgaged for many generations to the London tobacco brokers.[25]

As tobacco became the main money crop, it became as good as currency. Prices within the colony were calculated in pounds of tobacco. Tobacco became so profitable that, soon, even the

farmers with only a few hundred acres stopped growing grain and concentrated on tobacco. Eventually, the market was glutted and prices dropped. To compound this, the land was slowly exhausted and only the large planters could affort to rotate their tobacco crops. This caused many of the smaller farmers to constantly search for fresh land in the interior. Later chapters of this publication will show the Hurts were typical in this respect. Tobacco and large families kept the Hurts constantly moving toward the frontier.[26]

NOTES

[1]*William & Mary Quarterly*, Vols. 23-24 (Series I: 1964), p. 289.

[2]*Cavaliers & Pioneers – Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants – 1623-1666*. Vol. 1; abstracted and indexed by Nell Marion Nugent (Baltimore, MD: Baltimore Genealogical Publishing Co., 1963), pp. 142-143. Hereafter, this work is cited as: *Cavaliers & Pioneers.*

[3]"Instructions to Berkeley", 1641, in *McDonald Papers*, Vol. I, page 383, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA.

[4]Edward Eggleston, *The Transit of Civilization from England to America in the Seventeenth Century* (Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1972), p. 44.

[5]*Early Virginia Families Along the James River*, compiled by Louise Pledge Heath Foley (Richmond, VA: [self-published: Louise Pledge Heath Foley], 1974), vol. 1: *Patent Book No. 2*, page 12.

[6]*William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 23 & 24 (1964), p. 289.

[7]*Force's Historical Tracts*, Vol. III: *Orders and Constitutions*, 1619, 1620, p. 21.

[8]In 1638, Hamblyn transported four people. He received a patent for 250 acres in Charles River County (York) on Queen's Creek adjoining Richard Popely and "from the lands of the said Popely east upon a marsh towards the Passisadoes. The said land doe to the said Hamblyn for his personal adventure and for the transportation of John Dixon, Oliver Jucke, Elizabeth Marmore and one negro."

[9]On November 17, 1642, Hamblyn was granted 400 more acres in the county of York "at the head of Queen's Creek, west of the Mill Swamp, adjoining land of Captain Popeley, and doe to the said Hamblyn for the transportation of Richard Oliver, Benjamin Pillard, Ambrose Bowly, Jon Harrison, Thomas Buller, Thomas Hynde, Sarah Bennett and Robert Tarbrooke."

[10]The last reference we have of Stephen Hamblyn, the man who transported **William Hurt** to Virginia, is on March 29, 1666. On this date, Hamblyn was granted 1,400 acres of land in Charles City County, Virginia, "according to the ancient and lawful bounds of the said land, being formerly granted to Mr. Stephen Hamblyn, deceased, and lately found to escheat as by proceedings March 3, 1665, and is now granted to said Stephen Hamblyn provided the widow and relict of said Stephen Hamblyn, deceased, be no way prejudiced in her thirds and that she may enjoy the same in as full and ample manner to all intents and purposes as any other widow of his Majesty's natural born subjects."

[11]Edward Eggleston, *The Transit of Civilization from England to America in the Seventeenth Century*, p. 22.

[12]King William County, Virginia. *King William County Land Patent Book 6* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 502.

[13]*Ibid.*

[14]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia* (Memphis, TN: [typescript/self- published], September 15, 1958), p. 2.

[15]King William County, Virginia. *King William County Land Patent Book 4* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 366.

[16]Oscar Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia*, p. 2.

[17]King and Queen County, Virginia. *Virginia Patent Book 9* (King and Queen County, VA: King and Queen County [Press], n.d.), page 384.

[18]Edward Eggleston, *The Transit of Civilization from England to America in the Seventeenth Century*, p. 22.

[19]*Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. 32 (1979), p. 71.

[20]King William County, Virginia. [*King William County*] *Virginia Land Book 6* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 522.

[21]*William & Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 24 (Series I: 1964), p. 256.

[22]King William County, Virginia. [*King William County*] *Virginia Land Book 9* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 440.

[23]Oscar Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia*, p. 86.

[24]*Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. 32 (1979), p. 71.

[25]Editors of the American Heritage *Magazine of History, The American Heritage History of the Thirteen Colonies* (New York, NY: American Heritage Publishing Co., 1967), p. 174.

[27]William S. Sachs and Ari Hoogenboom, *The Enterprising Colonials ; Society on the Eve of the Revolution* (Chicago, IL: Argonaut, Inc., 1965), p. 22.

Chapter 2

John Hurt
--The Second Generation--

John Hurt, the son of William Hurt Sr., carried on my line through the second generation Hurts. He inherited from his father the thirst for land and the ability to make the most of his resources.

He was born sometime between 1655 and 1660 and died in 1723. His wife's name was Sarah. We believe her maiden name was either Webber or Yarbrough due to existing land records. John and Sarah lived in King William County.[1]

John and Sarah Hurt had as many as three sons: William, James and John. Other researchers of the Hurt history believe he may have had another son, Joseph, however, this involves speculation on our part. My line of the Hurts was carried on through John's son William, who was later know as William the Elder. He is the subject of Chapter 3.[2]

Like Father, Like Son

One of the first records we have of John Hurt is in 1691, when he bought land from Benjamin Arnold in King and Queen County, Virginia. This was land that Arnold had previously bought from the Chickahominy Indians of that region. The deed

was patented in King and Queen County on November 12, 1691. The deed reads in part:

> *"...John Yarbrough, planter, deed to Wm Aylett in 1704 for land sold and exchanged by Chickahominy Indians with Arnold for other land and by said Arnold of King and Queen County, sold to John Hurt of St. Stephen's Parish, King and Queen County, which deed as acknowledged in King and Queen County on November 12, 1691, and by said Hurt sold to Richard Yarbrough, father of said John, by deed acknowledged in King and Queen County February 12, 1695 and by virture of deed for half interest conveyed from said John's brother, Richard Yarbrough."*[3]

John Hurt would have been about 30 years old at this time. His father, William, Sr., was also still living.

The land described in this deed is probably situated in the Pamunkey Neck in the present day county of King William. Researchers believe it is where Herring Creek runs into the Mataponi River, where the early Hurts, Arnolds, Yarbroughs, and Hendricks lived.[4]

Where John Hurt lived is further substantiated by the will of Robert Bird in 1696: *"...I also give and bequeath to my sayd son William Bird the halfe of*

my land which was partly given me and partly purchased of the Chickahominy Indyans where Thomas Tarply now liveth and is my overseer in Pamunkey Neck on the south side of the Mattapony River, that is to say my sayd son shall have his choyce whether he will take his part where the plantation now is settled d(to witt) from the dividing line between Benja. Arnold, and myself, where John Hurt now liveth and so up the river to a corner white oak and line alongst a ridge of ground which was once a division between Joseph Cockeram and myself..."[5]

John Hurt's name next appears in 1704 when he was one of the witnesses for a land transaction for James and Margaret Haney. On April 15, 1704, the Haneys, of St. Stephen's Parish, King and Queen County, sold 200 acres to Donney Abney, adjoining a Mr. Madison's plantation and Matthew Ley's land. The deed was recorded in King William County with Dan't Abney, Rice William and John Hurt listed as witnesses.[6]

The same year, John Hurt appears to be succeeding in his efforts to buy land. The Virginia Quit Rent Rolls for King William County, Virginia, show he was taxed for 500 acres of land. Quit rent taxes didn't begin until seven years after a person had been awarded a head right grant for land, so we can presume that John Hurt had owned this land as early as 1697. The land he bought in 1691 from John Yarbrough was not the same land he was

taxed for in 1704, so his holdings exceeded 500 acres.[7]

The next year, in 1705, John Hurt once again acted as a witness for a land deal. On November 20, 1705, John Hurt, Henry Webber and Martin Palmer, Jr., witnessed a deed made by Henry Nelson to Thomas Baker for 200 acres in Pamunkey Neck, King William County, for 3,000 pounds of tobacco. Nelson was listed as being from St. Stephen's Parish, King and Queen County, and Baker from St. John's Parish of the same county. John Hurt's parish is not listed, although we believe he was still living in St. Stephen's Parish.[8]

Records such as these where colonists were listed as witnesses for various transactions are useful to researchers in several different areas. Since the population of Virginia was still sparse at that time, witnesses for deeds, wills, etc., were usually neighbors or relatives. By comparing land records, we are able to have a better idea of where the early Hurts lived.

For example, in 1705, Sarah Hurt, John Hurt's wife, gave power of attorney to Henry Webber for land sold to John Yarbrough in King William County. This type of act was usually reserved for family. It could be that Webber was Sarah's brother, or father.[9]

Land In The Pamunkey

John Hurt continues his real estate transactions in 1706 when he patented 546 acres on May 1 in the Pamunkey Neck for land adjoining Benjamin Arnold. The next day, John sold Robert Townsley 134 acres of this newly acquired land. The transaction is as follows:

> *"Now know ye that I the said Edward Nott Esq., Governor, do with the advice and consent of the Council of State accordingly give and grant unto John Hurt 546 acres of land in Pamunkey Neck in King William County formerly part of King and Queen County being marked and bounded as followeth, to-wit: Beginning at a corner hickory 36 poles from the Ridge path running thence North 216 poles to a red oake corner tree by the mainskin path thence West 1/2 a point North 41 poles to a line of old marked trees of Benjamin Arnold's and John Hurt's to a red oake in the said line thence Southwest 60 poles to a white oake on a hill side thence West by South 24 poles to a great white oake on the brow of a hill thence Northwest 40 poles to a gum thence North by West 80 poles to a corner white oake by a branch side thence North 54 poles to a corner*

white oak to the head of a branch thence Southwest by East cross a branch to a main swamp at the fork thereor 100 poles to a corner white oake just over the fork thence down the swamp the several courses 600 poles on a straight line to the mouth of the same emptying into the lower Herring Creek thence South South East 1/2 a point East 50 poles to the mouth of Herring Creek making into Mattapony River thence down the River South East by South 100 poles to a corner red oake on the bank of the Mattapony River side crossing Hance Hendrick's corner trees by a pine stump being formerly the old corner tree of Richard Yarbrough's grant thence along Hendrick's line North East by West 1/4 a point West 86 poles to a hiccory thence West 1/2 a point South 33 poles to a corner red oake of the said Hendrick's standing in the Bryory's Run thence West North East 16 poles to an old corner Spanish oake thence the same coure continued West North West 76 poles to a corner white oake standing by a branch side Richard Yarbrough's tobacco ground thence up the branch South West by South 48 poles to a white oake thence South West 52 poles to a saplin red oake by a slash in a thicket being a corner of William Hurt Sr. thence West 104 poles to a

Spanish oake thence South West 1/2 a point West 242 1/2 poles to the beginning place the said land being due unto the said John Hurt by and for the transportation of 11 persons unto this colony whose names are to be in the records mentioned under this patent. Given under my hand the seale of the Colony this 2nd day of May Anno Domini, 1706.
signed by Edward Nott[10]

This document is particularly important to researchers because it pinpoints the location of land owned by John Hurt, William Hurt, Sr., and several neighbors. These neighbors, the Yarbroughs and Hendricks, not only figured prominently in land transactions with the Hurts, but were also tied to the family by marriages.

We find another transaction listed only as having taken place in 1706 when Sarah Hurt waved her dower right in 134 acres which *"my husband John Hurt lately sold to John Yarbrough"* through her attorney, Henry Webber. Witnesses were Henry Webber, John Yarbrough and George Bennet. The original deed contained more information that may have shed light on the Webber-Hurt connection, but unfortunately, part of the original is not readable.[11]

The 546 acres John Hurt bought in 1706 seemed to have quenched his thirst for land for

awhile. It could have been that he was too preoccupied with improving the land he already owned to look for more. Eleven years later, however, he was ready to deal again.

Land Near Reedy Swamp

On July 15, 1717, John Hurt patented 450 more acres in King William County on the upper side of Reedy Swamp. Swamp was the name the early Virginians used to describe the tributary of a river. In 1728, this land ended up in Caroline County when that county was carved out of King William County.[12]

The last record we have of John Hurt occurs in 1723. He patented 400 acres of land in St. John's Parish, King William County. Unfortunately for John, he died a few days before receiving the title. The title of the land, however, was allowed to pass to William Hurt, John Hurt's oldest son. It is through the line of this William that I am descended. The grant is as follows:

> *"Know ye that for divers good causes and considerations but more especially for and in consideration of the sum of 40 shillings of good and lawful money for our use paid to our Receive of General of our Revenues in this our Colony and Dominion of Virginia, to have given, granted and confirmed and by these presents for us our*

heirs and successors to give grant and confirm unto John Hurt of King William County one certain tract or parcel of land containing 400 acres lying and being between Polecat Swamp and the Reedy Swamp in St. John's Parish in King William County aforesaid and bounded as followeth to-wit: Beginning at a gum standing in the Reedy Swamp thence 30 east 378 poles to a black oak by 3 small white oaks on a level in Mr. Walker's by a valley thence South 30 West 378 to a red oak, white oak, and poplar standing by the East side of the Reedy Swamp and lastly South sixty East 168 poles to the beginning.. .In witness... Williamsburgh under the seal of our said Colony the twentiety day of February one thousand seven hundred and twenty three in the tenth year of our reign.

exe'd Hugh Drysdale"[13]

When John Hurt died, he was probably close to seventy. This was a ripe old age for the time since the average age a man could expect to live at this time was about forty-five years old. The early Hurts, for the most part, enjoyed long lives and saw most of their children survive to adulthood. John Hurt had carried on his father's legacy of buying and selling land. While the original Hurt was a

transplanted Virginian, John Hurt became part of a growing number of English citizens who had never visited the motherland and whose loyalties were to their colony.

John Hurt's Children

James Hurt was one son of the second-generation John Hurt. The first record we have of him is from a deed dated July 18, 1722, where James and his wife Hannah sold 74 1/2 acres in King William County, Virginia, to William Hurt. This William was a brother of James and known as The Elder. This land was one quarter of the 298 acres patented by the first-generation William Hurt in 1701. James inherited this land from William, his grandfather.[14]

James Hurt evidently sold this land and reinvested in fresh land near the northern boundary of what is now Caroline County. On August 18, 1725, James patented 368 acres on Polecat Creek and Reedy Swamp in St. John's Parish, King William County, Virginia. This land was next to the estate of William Eubank.[15] After 1727, this land became part of St. Margaret's Parish in Caroline County.

There are numerous other references to a James Hurt in Caroline County after 1727, however, we don't know if these references are to this third-generation James, a son, or cousins. If these obscure references are records of this James, he would have still been living in the 1750s in Caroline County.

Joseph Hurt, another son of John Hurt, also lived in Caroline County. Land records show he owned land next to Jacob Seay, Benjamin Clemmons and James Hurt, his brother. Like James, there are several land deeds attributed to Joseph, but we do not know which Joseph Hurt the deeds refer to. The problems in searching for records of James and Joseph stem from the large Hurt families and the fact that most of them still lived in King William or Caroline County at this time. As later generations spread out and more wills survived the ravages of time and the Civil War, we are better able to sort out the names. William, James and John would continue to be favorite names of the Hurts for many more generations.

William the Elder may have been the oldest son of this second-generation John, if the Hurt tradition of naming the oldest son after the grandfather held true. In any case, this William is my direct descendent and the subject of Chapter 3.

John Hurt's Virginia

By the time John Hurt reached adulthood and began buying land to build his own plantation, Virginia was slowly developing regional characteristics quite different from its northern neighbors. These characteristics would not only affect the Hurts who would fight in the Revolutionary War, but also open up the frontiers for expansion. The Hurts would be among the first

settlers to move into Kentucky, Tennesse and later, Alabama and Mississippi.

In 1691, when John Hurt acquired his first land, Virginians were still thinly strung out along the rivers and creeks of the Tidewater area. Thick forests separated these settlements from the mountains that the Hurts would one day cross in search of greener pastures. Many of the farms and plantations did not have an entrance or exit by land. Much of the Virginian's travel was done by sailing sloop or dugout. Some of the parishes were more than 30 miles in length. John Hurt was strategically situated on Herring Creek which spilled into the larger Mataponi. He and his neighbors took advantage of this natural waterway to move their tobacco and receive what goods they didn't produce at home. While the northern colonies concentrated on religion, the Virginian's semi-isolation produced a native that concentrated on social intercourse and politics.

Life in John Hurt's Virginia was tied closely to his family, neighbors and the parish vestry. Since the outerlands of Virginia had few towns to speak of, the parish became the substitute for local government. The Parish was also the symbol of "The Church" in England--The Church of England. In the parish records we find the vestry opening roads, appointing overseers for roads, helping the poor and appointing collectors for various taxes. The parishes, of course, also were responsible for

building and maintaining the church as well as hiring and firing ministers.

Although the parish was the predominant governmental feature of early Virginia, the parish residents were often lackadaisical in their religious feelings. The Virginia Sunday was never a rigorous sabbath, but mainly a day to socialize. Some of the isolated settlers may have attended church merely to see friends and to relieve the boredom of tending their far-flung estates and farms.

The homesteads of middle-class Virginians such as John Hurt had progressed pass the log cabins earlier settlers had built. By the beginning of the eighteenth century, most yeoman farmers had comfortable wood-framed homes with some brick adornment. A typical home of this type would have had a huge main room where cooking, eating and relaxing took place. Although lower-class Virginians built wooden chimneys daubed with clay, farmers who could afford Virginia brick used it to build a large main fireplace sometimes twelve by three feet in size. This fireplace warmed the house and cooked the food.

Barns and sheds were also built of cut wood. As Virginians became more affluent, they used brick with high columns supporting a porch that became unique in American architecture.

This comfortable lifestyle was supported by tobacco. Although, a farmer might own six hundred acres of land, only about twenty to thirty

acres would be planted in tobacco. After the land was exhausted in three to four years, more land was cleared and a new patch developed. The farmer who had a number of sons was lucky. This homegrown labor allowed him to cut expenses while increasing production. For the ambitious who wished to increase the number of acres they had in production, help was necessary. At first, this came in the form of indentured servants. But this type of help was temporary. After four to seven years, the indentured servant gained his freedom.

By 1698, it became apparent to Virginia tobacco growers that another solution was needed. The solution, unfortunately, was African slaves. By 1700, more than one thousand slaves a year were being brought from Africa. In fifty years, that number would grow to more than five thousand slaves a year.

This cheap labor allowed the Virginians to move further west in their quest for fresh land as they continued to exhaust the soil. The Hurts through Virginia, the Carolinas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama show up on the census time and again as heavy users of the slave market. Many of the Hurts used African slaves to build magnificent plantations, but what started as an economic opportunity and a higher standard of living, turned into a shameful use of human life.

NOTES

[1]*Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. 25 (1974), pp. 175-176.

[2]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia* (Memphis, TN: [typescript/self- published], September 15, 1958), p. 6.

[3]*Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. 24 (1973), p. 392.

[4]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia*, p. 5.

[5]*Virginia Genealogist* (1975), p. 167.

[6]Virginia State Library, *King William [County] Gragments* Book 1 (Richmond, VA: Virginia State Library [Press], n.d.), p. 179.

[7]*Virginia Historical Magazine* Vol. 32 (1981), p. 71.

[8]King William County, Virginia. *King William County Land Patent Book 9* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 733-734.

[9]*Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. 25 (1974), pp. 175-176.

[10]King William County, Virginia. *King William County Land Patent Book 9* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 734.

[11]King William County, Virginia. *King William County Land Records Book I [to 1719]* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 314-321.

[12]King William County, Virginia. *King William County Land Records Book II (1719-1724)* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 330.

[13]*Ibid.*

[14]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia* (Memphis, TN: [typescript/self- published], September 15, 1958), p. 6.

[15]King William County, Virginia. *King William County Land Records Book XII* (King William County, VA: King William County [Press], n.d.), p. 253.

CHAPTER 3

William Hurt
--The Third Generation--

My line of the Hurts was carried on by William Hurt II, who is mentioned in several historical references as William the Elder. This third generation Hurt was the oldest son of John Hurt, who died in 1723, and was a grandson of William Hurt, Sr. William the Elder was born about 1680 and died in Caroline County, Virginia, in 1749.[1]

Much of what we know about this William comes from references to his will dated April 11, 1748. His wife's name was Ann and their marriage resulted in a number of children. Oscar Hurt believes William the Elder and Ann had as many as 10 children, although we are able to positively identify only five. Unfortunately, as in the case of several other early Hurts, William the Elder's will was destroyed when the Caroline County Courthouse burned during the Civil War.

William the Elder first settled where Herring Creek runs into the Mattaponi River in the upper part of the present-day King William County near the town of Aylett. After his father, John Hurt, died in 1723, William moved to a 400-acre tract between Polecat Creek and Reedy Swamp and lived there

until his death in 1749. This land would later fall in Caroline County when that county was formed.[2]

The children that we are sure belonged to William the Elder include Moses, William, Joel, Elisha, John and James. John Hurt carried on my line of the Hurts. There were undoubtedly daughters also born to William the Elder and Ann, but there are no records to prove this.

The Inheritance

Since William the Elder spent his entire life near to where the previous two generations had lived, he may have inherited a sizable portion of his father John's estate. In fact, William the Elder probably inherited as much as 500 acres from his father. This alone would have given him enough land to have a comfortable lifestyle and provide a good life for his children. It's likely he and his brothers shared responsibilities in taking care of their father's sizable land holdings during John Hurt's declining years.

The first actual record we have of William the Elder is in 1722 when he entered into some kind of contract with Robert Baber. Since only a fragment of the record is available because of the King William Courthouse fire of 1885, we can't determine what transaction actually took place.[3]

During the same year, James Hurt and his wife Hannah, sold 74 and 1/2 acres to William the Elder on July 18. James was William the Elder's brother.

This land was James' part of the 298 acres patented by the first generation William Hurt in 1701 and left to James in the original William Hurt's will.[4]

William's Petition

Two years later, William the Elder received an unexpected land windfall when his father, John Hurt, died. John, the second generation Hurt of my line, had received approval from the government for a grant of 400 acres in King William County. This land would later become part of Caroline County. When John died, before the grant was actually made, William the Elder filed this petition to receive the land in place of his father:

> *"William Hurt eldest son and heir of John Hurt late of the County of King William deceased hath humbley represented to this Board that his father in his life time did take and survey 400 acres of land in St. John's Parish in the aforesaid county of King William and did return a Survey thereof in the Secretaries office and soon after departed this life whereby it hath happen'd that the patent for the said land past in the name of the said John Hurt some few days after his decease and for as much as the said William Hurt hath this day made application to the governor that for avoiding all disputes which may arise*

touching the said patent, he would be pleased to accept a surrender of the same and grant a new patent for the said land to him the said William Hurt, to whom the inheritance thereof would have descended in case the Grant thereof had been passed during the life of his said father. The Governor (with the device of the Council) is pleased to Order that the patent granted in the name of the aforesaid John Hurt for the aforesaid 400 acres in land bearing date the 20 of Feb. 1724 and now surrendered be cancelled and that a new patent for the said land be granted to the said William Hurt."[5]

William the Elder's petition was approved by Governor Drysdale and ten months later a new grant was issued:

"That for divers good causes and considerations but more especially for and in consideration of the sum of 40 shillings of good and lawful money for our use paid to our receiver general of our revenues in this our Colony of Virginia We have given, granted and confirmed and by these presents for us our heirs and successor do give grant and confirm unto William Hurt of King William County, Virginia, one

certain tract of parcel of land containing four hundred acres lying and being between Polecat Swamp and the Reedy Swamp in St. John's Parish in King William Co. aforesaid and bounded as followeth: Beginning at a gum standing in the Reedy Swamp thence north thirty case three hundred and seventy eight poles to a black oak by three small white oaks on a level in Mr. Walker's line thence along his line north Sixty west one hundred and sixty eight poles to two small corner red oak saplins of Mr. Walker's by a valley thence south thirty west three hundred and seventy eight poles to a red oak and white oak sixty cast one hundred and sixty eight poles to the beginning with all to have hold and to be held and yielding and paying and provided and in witness and witness of our truly and well beloved Hugh Drysdale."[6]

After acquiring this land, William the Elder seems to have been content with his holdings and settled into the everyday life of a Virginia planter. The next record of him doesn't occur until August 8, 1740, when William sold some land to Hugh Norder: *"William Hurt and Anne his wife (she being first privately examined) acknowledged their*

deeds of leave and release to Hugh Norder, Gent. which on his motion are ordered to be recorded."[7]

Eight years later, William the Elder was dead, and the third generation of my line of the Hurts came to an end. His will, dated April 11, 1748, is referred to in the release document executed by his grandson Joel Hurt on June 14, 1768. The will was probated in Caroline County, Virginia, on May 12, 1749.[8]

Only part of the execution of the will of William the Elder remains for researchers to examine:

> *"The last will and testament of William Hurt dec'd was presented in court by Ann Hurt, William Hurt and Joel Hurt the exrs therein named who make oath thereto according to law and being proved by the oaths of Joel Hurt, Elisha Hurt and Moses Hurt witnesses thereto, is ordered to be recorded and on examination of ye Sd. Exrs and they performing what is usual in such cases certificate is granted them for obtaining a probate thereof in due form they be given sufficient security. It is ordered that John Willey, Jon. Sutton, Samuel Norment and Jno. Peace appraise ye estate of William Hurt, the elder."*[9]

William The Elder's Children

John Hurt, who carried on my line of the Hurts, was probably the oldest son of William the Elder. His story is told in Chapter 4.

Joel Hurt, Sr., was another son of William the Elder. His wife's name was Hannah. He was born in Caroline County, Virginia, in the early 1700s and by 1758 was living in Edgecombe County, North Carolina. The land this Joel, Sr., owned would later become Halifax County. He was the father of William, Elisha, Mary Hurt Gamble, Elizabeth Hurt Burt and Joel Hurt, Jr. Joel Hurt, Sr., died after 1798 in Hancock County, Georgia.[10]

Joel Hurt, Sr., is significant because he was one of the first Hurts to leave Virginia. Later, as the Hurts multiplied and searched for new land, they would become pioneers in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi.

The first record we have of Joel Hurt, Sr., is on May 12, 1749, when he was one of the executors of the will of his father, William the Elder. The will was dated April 11, 1748, and probated on May 12, 1749, in Caroline County.[11]

On November 8, 1753, his brother William acknowledged deed of livery and seizen to Joel Hurt, Sr. "Livery and seizen" was a ceremony where land was passed from one person to another.[12]

Joel Hurt, Sr., was still in Virginia on March 30, 1756, when he sold 200 acres of land in Amelia

County, Virginia, for 60 pounds to William Moulson of Middlesex County, Virginia. This land was on the upper side of Flat Creek and was part of 400 acres granted to William the Elder by patent on November 21, 1734. Joel, Sr., received title to this land through the April 11, 1748 will.[13]

Later that year, on June 10, we find Joel Hurt, Sr., a busy participant during a meeting of the Caroline County Court. In one action, we find Moza Hurt in Joel's home being appointed overseer of a road. Moza was Joel's cousin. This action was in keeping with the custom of the local parish being responsible for appointing parishioners to take care of the roads. The Hurts, because of their land holdings, were often among those selected for this duty. In other county business that same day, Joel Hurt, Sr., and his wife Hannah acknowledged their deed indented to Joseph Dejarnett. In still another transaction recorded that day, James Murry had sued the estate of John Floyd. Joel Hurt, Sr., was a witness in the suit: *"In the suit on the attachment obtained by James Murry against the estate of John Floyd, judgement is granted the Plt. against the said deft. for the sum of one hundred and thirty pounds current money by bond and cost and the sherif having made return that he served the said attachment in the hands of Joel Hurt who appeared and declared on oath he (John Floyd) has one negro wench, one bed, some pewter and old iron. Estate is therefore ordered he deliver said negro and*

goods to the sherif to sell according to law and satisfie the Plt. judgement therewith if there be money enough ensuing by the said sale to do the same and make report thereof to the next court."[14]

Two years later, Joel Hurt, Sr., had left Caroline County, Virginia, and was living in North Carolina. On June 27, 1758, William Rose sold to Joel Hurt, Sr., of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 320 acres of land on Marsh Swamp. After 1758, this land became part of Halifax County, North Carolina.[15]

Joel, Sr., added to his land in Halifax County on February 9, 1760, when he bought 200 acres of land from John Fish.[16] He later sold 7 1/2 acres of land on May 20, 1771, to William Brown.[17]

In 1778, a Joel Hurt, in two transactions, sold land in Halifax County. On June 13 he sold a few acres to William Bossman. The deed was witnessed by Elisha Hurt and Montfort Stokes.[18] Then on September 17, this Joel sold 200 acres to Thomas Scott of Charlotte County, Virginia, for 180 pounds current money of Virginia. This land was on Buffalow Creek next to the land of John Hurt. The deed was signed Joel and his wife Tabitha. Tabitha was a daughter of James Collins of Halifax County, Virginia, and identifies this Joel as Joel, Jr., the grandson of William the Elder. We believe these transactions were carried out by Joel, Jr., to sell off his land in Halifax County, North Carolina, and relocate in Wilkes County, Georgia.

These particular transactions point out the difficulty of researching the Hurts during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the southern states. Because of the Hurt's habit of naming sons after fathers, grandfathers and uncles, it was not uncommon to have three to four Hurts with identical names living in the same county. In this case, the Joel mentioned is Joel, Jr., who moved to Wilkes County, Georgia. His father, Joel, Sr., ended up in Hancock County, Georgia.[19]

Joel, Sr., remained, for the time being, in Halifax County, North Carolina, and on January 6, 1785, sold land to Thomas Hawkins. Montfort Stokes witnessed the deed.[20] Two years later, on November 8, 1787, Joel, Sr., gave a gift to his daughter: *"In consideration of the natural love and affection I bear to my daughter, Mary Hurt, alias Mary Gamble, several slaves."*[21]

On July 24, 1789, we find the last record of Joel Hurt, Sr., in Halifax County, North Carolina, when he sold 378 acres to Patrick Martin on Elk Marsh (Creek). Oscar Hurt, a Hurt historian, believes this was a prelude to Joel's move to Hancock County, Georgia.[22]

The next time Joel, Sr., turns up in the record books, he's living in Hancock County. On May 4, 1798, Joel, Sr., by a deed of gift gave to his son-in-law Edmond Gamble, formerly of Halifax County, North Carolina, one negro girl. Witness was Henry Hurt. Since Edmond Gamble married Mary, the

daughter of Joel, Sr., we assume the Gambles followed the elderly Joel, Sr. to Georgia. It was not unusual in those days for an entire family to pack up and leave for greener pastures. The Hurts were a clannish bunch and seemed to enjoy the company of kin.[23] More evidence of this takes place the same year when Joel, Sr., gave his son William two negro slaves. William, who was living in Hancock County at the time, seems to also have made the trek to Georgia.[24]

On May 4, 1798, Joel Hurt, Sr., again makes a deed of gift to one of his children. This time, it was Elisha Hurt, of Warren County, Georgia. Elisha received several negro slaves and other personal property. At this point, it becomes clear that Joel, Sr., close to eighty-years old, was liquidating his estate. He was probably too old to work his own land and relied on his children to take care of him. In fact, the last record we have of Joel, Sr., is on May 4, 1798, when he gave William Burt several negro slaves and some personal property. Here are Joel, Sr.'s, last recorded words: *"Know ye that I the said Joel Hurt Senior for and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have and bear unto my beloved son-in-law, William Burt of the State of North Carolina in Halifax County....."*[25]

Moses Hurt was another son of William the Elder. He was born in King William County, Virginia, during the first decade of the 1700s and

died in Amelia County, Virginia, in 1783. The land he lived on was incorporated into Nottoway County, Virginia, after 1788. His wife's name was Ann, who died before him. His will of 1783 shows seven children: Millicent, Moses, Jr., Elizabeth, Sarah, Zacheous, Absalom and an unidentified son.

The first record we have of Moses, later known as Moses, Sr., was on February 9, 1738, when a Caroline County court ordered Moses, Robert Woolfolk and Tim Chandler to lay out a road that was to be built from Mattapony River Road across Polecat Swamp to Chesterfield Church. The court instructions read, *"nearest the old way as possible."* The early Hurts, because of their sizable land holdings, were often among those tasked with upkeep and construction of roads.[26]

On March 9 of the same year, Moses Hurt was given further instructions concerning the road. The court ordered that the road be *"layd off by Robt. Woolfolk Gent, and others; that Jones Meaders, Thos Hamm, James Collins and Timothy Chandler with their respective gangs assist in clearing the said road; that Moses Hurt be surveyor of the same road and keep it in repair according to law."*[27]

Later that year on August 11, Moses Hurt was once again called on to fulfill his civic duties when he, Timothy Chandler and Samuel Norment, Jr., were called on to appraise the estate of Joseph Fulcher, carry out the division of the will and report their actions to the court when they finished. We

find many references to the Hurts in Virginia records where they were called on by the courts to help appraise and divide estates. These records show us not only who their neighbors were, but the Hurts standing in the community.[28]

Almost a year later, on August 10, 1739, John Roberts and Sussanna, his wife, Moses Hurt, John Haney and Sam Norment, Jr., *"acknowledged bond for the estate of Jos Fulcher dec'd."* This took care of the estate of Joseph Fulcher.[29]

In 1740, we once again find Mose Hurt busy with court business. On June 13, Moses Hurt petitioned the court to order Head Lynch, Gent., to appoint persons to help Moses clear the road to the Chesterfield Church that Moses had previously surveyed.[30] Then on October 10, Moses, Timothy Chandler, William Southworth and Thomas Browning were ordered to appraise the estate of George Goodwin, who had died, and report back to the court.[31]

The following year, on July 10, Moses is shown as having served on two separate juries on the same day. Mose's work for the Caroline County Court during the preceding years makes us wonder when he had time to work his land. Perhaps Moses left the work on his plantation to his children while he supervised.

On May 12, 1749, we find the record that proves Moses Hurt is the son of William the Elder. On this date, Moses was one of the witnesses to the

will of that William. The will, dated April 11, 1748, was probated in Caroline County on May 12, 1749.[32]

Moses Hurt added to his already large estate on January 16, 1750, when he bought from Laughlin Flynn 800 acres of land for 250 pounds. Oscar Hurt believed this land was on the north bank of the Nottoway River. It was near the present day Highway 40.[33]

Two years later, Moses sold 200 acres of this land to Thomas Chambers of Amelia County for 62 pounds. We believe that Thomas Chambers was the husband of Millicent Hurt, the oldest daughter of Moses and Ann Hurt. This was the last land transaction we find for Moses Hurt until 1774 when he sold 300 more acres of his land to his son, Moses Hurt, Jr., for 300 pounds. The land was bounded by land of Adam Jones, Jacob Davis, John Chappell, Joseph White, Stephen Cocke and Bear Branch (creek). It's interesting to note the increase in the value of land from 1749 to 1774.[34]

The last mention we have of Mose Hurt, son of William the Elder, is the 1790 census. This records shows Moses, Sr., living in Amelia County, Virginia, with four in his family and 19 slaves.

James Hurt, another son of William the Elder, was yet another Hurt who spent his life buying land and enjoying a prosperous life. He was born in the first decade of the 1700s and by 1725 had patented 368 acres of land on Polecat Creek and Reedy.

Swamp in St. John's Parish, King William County, Virginia. This land was next to the land of William Hurt, a brother of James.[35]

In 1742, James is shown as selling 400 acres of land in King William County to John Hurt of Amelia County, Virginia, for 40 pounds. According to the patent, this was land James had bought in 1736. We have no record of this transaction which was made with his brother John.[36]

In 1756, we have our last two land transactions by this James Hurt. In two different transactions, he sold a total of 400 acres of land in King William County. We do not know if he was selling excess land, or getting ready to move toward the frontiers because he had exhausted his land growing tobacco. In any case, other records naming a James Hurt are found in other counties. We do not know if any of these other James are references to the son of William the Elder.[37]

Elisha Hurt, yet another son of William the Elder, is first found in Caroline County, Virginia, when he was listed as one of the witnesses to his father's will, dated April 11, 1748. The will was probated in Caroline County on May 12, 1749, and Elisha was one of the recipients of William the Elder's sizable estate.[38]

As near as we can tell, Elisha Hurt spent his entire life in Caroline County. Unlike his prosperous brothers, he appears not to have capitalized on his inheritance. He was dead by 1768 when Joel Hurt

signed a release deed in Caroline County. Elisha died intestate and without children.[39]

The last son of William the Elder that we have record of is William, Jr. He was born about 1720 in King William County and was in Amelia County by 1754. In 1788, that part of Amelia became Nottoway County. This fourth-generation William made his home on the upper part of Flat Creek on land patented by his father in 1734 and 1738. William lived there until his death in 1788.[40]

This William Hurt married twice. Records don't reveal the name of his first wife, although she may have been named Rachael. His second wife's name was Charity. According to his will dated August 31, 1789, he had five children by his first wife: Benjamin, William, Obadiah, Elizabeth and Ann. He and Charity had one son, John.[41]

The 1790 census shows William as having six in his family and 17 slaves. He died not too long after having been counted (in 1788). He left behind an estate that, like many of the other early Hurts, gave his children a headstart on life.

William the Elder's Virginia

Life in Caroline County during William the Elder's early adult life was becoming less dangerous and more profitable for those who could afford land. Robert Beverly of Caroline County received a grant for 16,000 acres of land and built a splendid mansion and estate. Farmers, such as William the

Elder, who owned anywhere from five hundred to one thousand acres, also had comfortable, if not luxurious lifestyles. The Hurts, enjoying the prosperity of Virginia's tobacco industry, were proof of the amazing opportunities in this new land. After all, only seventy-five years before William the Elder bought his first land, his grandfather had arrived in Virginia as an indentured servant. The first William Hurt lived long enough to see his grandchildren, and even a few great-grandchildren, be born into a life that would never have been available to them in England.

By 1700, when William the Elder was in his early twenties, about 50,000 people lived in Virginia, making it the most populous colony. The land along the tidal rivers and creeks where the Hurts lived was full. If a person wanted land, he had to look to the western or southern frontiers of Virginia. The many children of William the Elder, if they wanted to settle estates large enough to support tobacco farming, were priced out of the land market in Caroline County. Like other children of prospering middle-class farmers, the Hurts would seek new horizons. This was the beginning of the Hurt exodus to other states.

But while fertile land was still available to any settler who could scrap together a few shillings, colonial life also had its downside. The Indians, although not a serious problem in Caroline County,

continued to be a nuisance. As late as 1708, William Hurt and his neighbors were standing guard over their land since the Tuscarora Indians were still raiding isolated settlements on the outer parts of Caroline County. But the Indians were not as much of a problem as the taxes and restrictions the English government was beginning to enact.

From 1704 to 1730, the English crown approved a number of trade acts that made it illegal to export many products to any port outside England. As a result, the colonists had to export to England their rice, tobacco, molasses, pitch, tar, rosin, turpentine, hemp and many other products. The colonists were angry since other countries sometimes paid higher prices for their goods and charged less for transportation.

In 1715, Virginia's governor placed a tobacco tax of eighty-five pounds per head on all male residents, both African and Anglo, over the age of 16. In addition, the governor set up a government-run warehouse at York. Tobacco farmers were supposed to send their hogsheads where inspectors could make sure colonists were paying the proper tax. The Virginians refused to use the warehouse and used privateers to ship their tobacco. When the government cracked down and forced many planters to store their tobacco at the legal warehouse, a group of Caroline planters set fire to the warehouse and burned it to the ground.

This was only the beginning of the tax resistance by residents of Caroline County. By the time of William the Elder's death in 1749, Virginians were fed up with the taxes levied on them by the English and administered by local governors. The third- and fourth-generation colonists were beginning to consider themselves Americans, not English. They had more land, more opportunity, and on the edges of the frontier, more freedom. These were things they would not easily give up.[42]

NOTES

[1]Caroline County, Virginia. *Order Book (1746-1754)* Vol. 2 (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 147.

[2]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia* (Memphis, TN: [typescript/self- published], September 15, 1958), p. 88.

[3]*Ibid.*

[4]*Ibid.*

[5]*Ibid.*

[6]*Ibid.*, pp. 88-89.

[7]Caroline County, Virginia. *Order Book (1732-1740)* (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 630.

[8]Caroline County, Virginia. *Order Book (1746-1754)* Vol. 1 (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 147.

[9]*Ibid.*

[10]*Ibid.*

[11]*Ibid.*

[12]Ibid., Vol. 2, p. 433.

[13]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book* Vol. 5 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County, Virginia Records), p. 432.

[14]Caroline County, Virginia. *Order Book (1756-58)* Vol. 2 (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 168.

[15]Halifax County, North Carolina. *Halifax County Deed Book* Vol. 6 (Halifax County, NC: Halifax County Records), p. 312.

[16]Halifax County, North Carolina. *Halifax County Deed Book* Vol. 7 (Halifax County, NC: Halifax County Records), p. 155.

[17]Halifax County, North Carolina. *Halifax County Deed Book* Vol. 14 (Halifax County, NC: Halifax County Records), p. 316.

[18]*Ibid.*, p. 134.

[19]Halifax County, North Carolina. *Halifax County Deed Book* Vol. 2 (Halifax County, NC: Halifax County Records), p. 101.

[20]Halifax County, North Carolina. *Halifax County Deed Book* Vol. 15 (Halifax County, NC: Halifax County Records), p. 493.

[21]Halifax County, North Carolina. *Halifax County Deed Book* Vol. 16 (Halifax County, NC: Halifax County Records), p. 420.

[22]Halifax County, North Carolina. *Halifax County Deed Book* Vol. 17 (Halifax County, NC: Halifax County Records), p. 186.

[23]Hancock County, Georgia. *Hancock County Deed Book* Vol. C (Hancock County, GA: Hancock County Records), p. 303.

[24]*Ibid.*, p. 304.

[25]*Ibid.*, p. 307.

[26]Caroline County, Virginia. *Order Book (1732-1740)* (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 519.

[27]*Ibid.*, p. 534.

[28]*Ibid.*, p. 496.

[29]*Ibid.*, p. 555.

[30]*Ibid.*, p. 611.

[31]Caroline County, Virginia. *Order Book (1741-1746)* Vol. 1, part 1 (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 16.

[32]*Ibid.*, p. 147.

[33]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book* Vol. 3 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County, Virginia Records), p. 539.

[34]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book* Vol. 13 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County, Virginia Records), p. 169.

[35]Caroline County, Virginia. *Land Book* Vol. 2 (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 253.

[36]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book* Vol. 2 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County, Virginia Records), p. 19.

[37]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book* Vol. 5 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County, Virginia Records), pp. 402, 405.

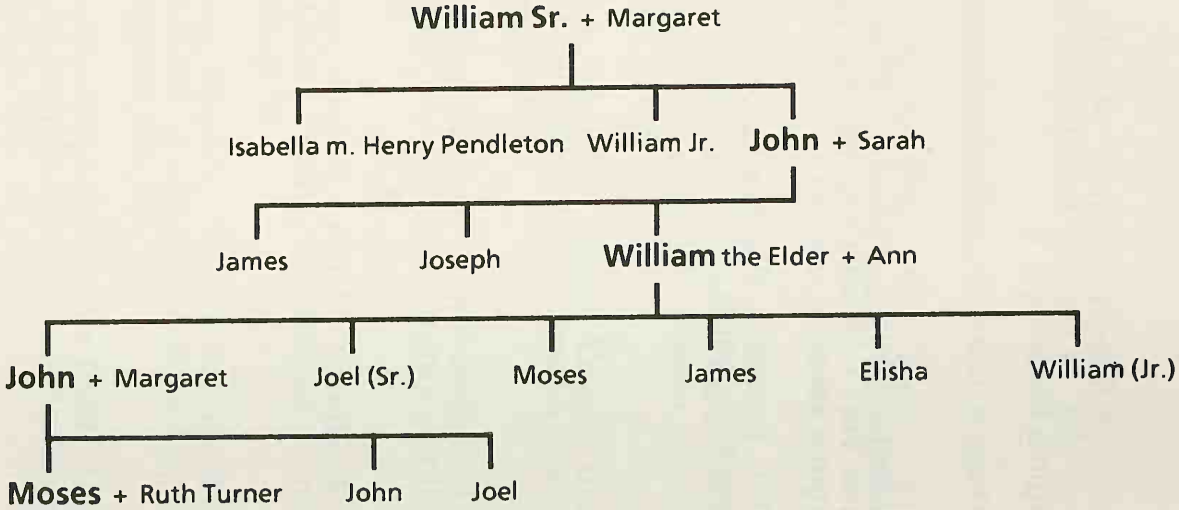
[38]Caroline County, Virginia. *Order Book (1746-1754)* Vol. 2 (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County, Virginia Records), p. 147.

[39]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book* Vol. 10 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County, Virginia Records), p. 6.

[40]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia,* p. 4.

[41]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Will Book* Vol. 1 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County, Virginia Records), pp. 247.

[42]T. E. Campbell, *Colonial Caroline* (Richmond, VA: Dietz Press, 1954).


William Sr. + Margaret
Isabella m. Henry Pendleton
William Jr.
John + Sarah
James
Joseph
William the Elder + Ann
John + Margaret
Joel (Sr.)
Moses
James
Elisha
William (Jr.)
Moses + Ruth Turner
John
Joel

Chapter 4

John Hurt
--The Fourth Generation--

John Hurt, the fourth generation of my line, was a son of William the Elder. He was probably born during the first decade of the 1700s in King William County, Virginia. His wife's name was Margaret and they were living in Amelia County, Virginia, by 1736. They had three sons, Moses, John and Joel. This John died in Amelia County before May 25, 1754. He carried on the Hurt tradition of buying and selling land, but died leaving two minor sons, and a history of court disputes with debtors. His sons continued the Hurt tradition of moving into the frontier areas of Colonial America--John to Surry County, North Carolina, and Joel to Wilkes County, Georgia. Another son, Moses, is my direct descendent. Chapter 5 tells his story.[1]

The earliest records we have of John Hurt come from the time he spent in Caroline County. He lived in the part of Caroline County that was formed out of King William County. In 1732, John was caught up in a court case because of a debt he owed James Herndon. The Herndons were neighbors of the early Hurts. On May 27, James Herndon sued John Hurt for a debt he claimed John

owed. The trial was evidently continued to August 10, but John didn't appear. Herndon asked the court to order John to appear. On September 14, the trial was again continued. Finally, on October 12, John Hurt again failed to appear and the judge, growing tired of the ordeal, attached a judgement against John Hurt's estate so Herndon could get his money. Ironically, on December 14 of the same year, John Hurt was paid by the county for duties he had carried out as constable. Since one of the constable's main duties was to make sure the tobacco tax was paid, we can only assume John Hurt was enforcing the laws when he should have been in court.[2]

The next year, on August 9, John Hurt was up to his old tricks when he was sued by John Anderson for a debt. John Hurt showed up in court, but lost the verdict. John, however, probably had enough to pay the judgment since on October 11, he collected 223 pounds of tobacco for his duties as constable.[3]

John Hurt in Amelia County

This John Hurt next appears in public records on January 14, 1736, in Amelia County, Virginia. On this date, we find the petition of Henry Cary, plaintiff, against John Hurt, defendant, who came into court and *"confessed judgment for four pounds eleven shillings and six pence half penny. It is therefore considered by the Court that we do*

recover the same and his costs in his behalf expended."[4]

John Hurt could have left for Amelia County because he needed fresh land and didn't want to pay the expensive land prices in Caroline County. Another possibility is that John left Caroline, as did many others, to escape debts he owed in his home county.

On March 11, 1736, we find confirmation of where John Hurt's land was: *"William Echols appointed surveyor of a road to be cleared from the white oak on Flatt Creek to John Hurt's near the fork of Stock's Creek ordered he cause the same to be done and bridges made where they are needing."*[5]

There are no further references to John Hurt until August 21, 1741, when he was once again involved in a legal proceeding. John Hurt and Abraham Hurt were witnesses in the suit of John Hill against John Burton for assault. Abraham Hurt was John Hurt's cousin. John Hurt then made a motion, as a witness for Burton, that the defendant pay him for one day's attendance. Before 1776, witnesses routinely received pay for testifying in court. In this case, it may have meant that John was not a friendly witness for Burton, but testified by order of the court.[6]

The next year, on January 22, 1742, John Hurt increased his land holdings when he paid James Hurt of King William County, Virginia, for 40£ (40

pounds British) current money for 400 acres of land "being part of a patent of a greater quantity bearing date of September 8, 1736." This land was in Amelia County and was bounded by Paul Anderson's land, Anderson's commissary and the land of Thomas Prewett. Witnesses were Henry Dawson, Thomas Prewett and William Foster. This James Hurt was probably John's brother. The original deed record was for 1,263 acres on Stock's Creek near the Appomattox River.[7]

Additional proceedings concerning this land took place on February 7, when John Hurt sold to William Foster, for 20£ current money of Virginia, 200 acres of land on the south side of the Appomattox River *"being part of a grant of 400 acres and of a greater quantity granted to James Hurt of King William County, Virginia, lying upon Stock's Creek and bounded as follows: Beginning at a white oak upon Thomas Prewett's line and thence to a red oak on William Clement's line. Thence to a Spanish oak on James Hurt's line, thence to a pine on Thomas Prewett's line, thence to the Beginning."*[8] Twelve days later, the deed was proved by the oaths of Thomas Prewett and William Foster.[9] On the same day, *"John Hurt presented and acknowledged his deed to William Foster, Margaret the wife of the said John, being first privately examined relinquished her dower in the land conveyed by the said deed which is ordered to be recorded."* The action involving John's wife

was a routine court action where the wife gave up any claim she might have for the land so the title would be clear. When Margaret was "privately examined" she was merely being told her rights by the court.[10]

Tobacco For Testimony

On June 27, 1743, John Hurt once again appears in court as a witness. This time he testified for Thomas Prewett who was suing a Mr. Fox. John once again was paid for his testimony.[11] The following year, on January 18, the tables were turned on Mr. Prewett, when John Hurt served as a witness for Abraham Hurt in a suit against Thomas Prewett. The court ordered Abraham to pay John one hundred and fifty pounds of tobacco for six day's attendance.[12] John was busy again on July 17, 1747, when he served as a witness for Benjamin Clements in a suit against John Echols. For five day's work as witness, John received one hundred and twenty five pounds of tobacco.[13]

Early Virginia court records are full of references to lawsuits such as the one just described. The colonists were quick to sue and would haul anyone into court at a moment's whim, whether it be family, friend or neighbor.

While the lawsuits were a sure sign that the county government was working, it also meant there were roads to be built for the growing population. On May 17, 1751, John Hurt was

appointed surveyor of a road that was to be built from Stock's Creek to Samual Major's land. Paul Anderson, Jesse Seay, William Foster, John Ford and Samuel Allen were all appointed to help. John Hurt may have been appointed surveyor because he either had surveying skills or owned most of the land that would border the road.[14]

The last reference we have of John Hurt is on January 24, 1755, when he petitioned the court for thirty-four shillings and six pence from John Burton, a neighbor. John Hurt received the judgment: "The parties being heard judg't for the same and costs." According to other court records, this judgment was awarded after the death of John Hurt.[15]

Two Minors Left Behind

We know John Hurt had died by May 23, 1754, because one of his minor children, Joel, chose a guardian on that date. Joel chose George Booker as his guardian *"who together with Nicholas Guillinton his security enter into and acknowledge bond order to be recorded."*[16] On March 27, 1755, we find record of another child, John, Jr.: *"John Hurt orphan of John Hurt made choice of Nicholas Guillinton as his guardian."* George Booker, the guardian of Joel, the other Hurt orphan, acknowledged the necessary bond.[17] This court action was important because John Hurt probably left a sizable estate to be divided among his

children. Joel and John would later invest their inheritance in North Carolina and Georgia as their own families grew and they needed room to spread out.

John Hurt's Children

On December 18, 1761, John and his brother Joel sold 200 acres they had inherited from their father to John Tabb of Amelia County for 100 pounds. Following this, John and Joel moved to Halifax County, Virginia.[18] On February 6, 1764, we find John Hurt in Halifax County where he bought land from James Collins on both sides of the North Fork of Buffalow Creek.[19] By 1768, Joel had joined his brother in Halifax County and had married Tabitha Collins, the daughter of James. Joel lived on Buffalow Creek next to the land of his brother John. It's possible the Hurts knew James Collins in Amelia County, or that Joel met Tabitha after moving to Halifax County.

John, in the meantime, married Mary King. She was called Polly. John's wife may have been the daughter of Robert King, who died in Halifax County in 1757. John and Polly Hurt proceeded to have a houseful of children: Joel, William, John, Robert, Charles, Elizabeth, James, Sara, Martha and Thomas.[20]

On May 20, 1771, John bought 38 acres of land on Buffalow Creek from his brother Joel for 10 pounds. This is the last reference we have of John in

Halifax County. By 1778, he and his family were in Surry County, North Carolina.[21]

We pick up John Hurt's trail again in 1778 in Surry County where he was listed as serving in the militia in the Salisbury District of North Carolina.[22]

The U. S. Census of 1790 shows John Hurt still living in Surry County at that time with six males over sixteen, two males under sixteen and four females in his family.[23] Six years later, John Hurt was dead. Records in Surry County for 1796 give an inventory of the estate of John Hurt by Mary Hurt, the administrator.[24]

John Hurt's Virginia

Amelia County, where John Hurt spent most of his adult life, was formed in 1734 out of Prince George County. The county was named after Amelia Sophia, second daughter of George II of England. Virginians began moving into Amelia County as early as 1728 when Richard Jones received a patent for 337 acres of land.[25]

Virginians moved into Amelia for the fertile soil to replace the land in the Tidewater area they had exhausted growing tobacco. Amelia also had another advantage. The Appomattox River ran on three sides of the county and was fed by Deep Creek, Namozine Creek, Flat Creek and Stock's Creek, which bordered the land owned by John Hurt. The colonists used the Appomattox to float their tobacco to Petersburg and City Point on the

James River. They brought supplies back by coming upriver.[26]

The county government was quickly formed with Edward Booker and Richard Booker serving as two of the justices of the peace. Their brother, George Booker, would later take Joel Hurt under his wing when John Hurt died in 1754. Another familiar name was John Burton. Burton's family owned large tracts of land in several counties, including Amelia. Burton was commissioned to be sheriff and later served in the Virginia House of Burgesses, the state's ruling body. John Hurt is recorded as having testified for Burton in a suit Burton brought against John Hill.[27]

The work of building a new county was momentarily interrupted in 1744 when France declared war on England in what was known as King George's War. Although Amelia was not touched directly by the war, the colonists were apprehensive about possible Indian raids instigated by the French. To prepare for this eventually, the Amelia Militia was formed. Although John Hurt was not a member of the militia, cousins and brothers of John did join. Joel, William, James and James, Sr., Hurt were all members of the Amelia Militia. They each received 5 pounds 6 shillings for their efforts. The war ended in 1748 and life in the colonies returned to normal.[28]

When the war ended, the colonists once again focused on the sad shape of the economy. The

English restrictions on exports and high prices on imports continued to be a thorn in the side of the colonists. In order to avoid paying the high duties on tobacco and molasses required by the English government, the colonists perfected the art of smuggling.

The ragged coastline of Virginia, consisting of many inlets and navigatible rivers, allowed the colonists to easily avoid the government inspectors. Virginians loaded and unloaded ships under the cover of darkness, transferred goods from one ship to another, used false manifest papers and mislabeled barrels of tobacco. Some colonists packed their tobacco in bread casks and dusted each end with floor. Goods were then shipped to countries like Holland where the colonists got better prices.[29]

The most important result of the smuggling was not in revenue lost or gained, but rather the effect on relations between England and the colonies. The smuggling not only undermined the authority of England over the colonies, but showed the colonists the fruits of economic independence. This was the beginning of the protest again Crown policies that would lead to the Revolutionary War.[30]

The weakening of economic ties with England was accompanied by an equally significant weakening of religious ties. While the Anglican Church was the church by law of Amelia County

when John Hurt moved there in 1736, the outer fringes of Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina were ripe for new religious ideas. A peaceful revolution was taking shape that would have an impact on the development of the American nation.[31]

In 1738, George Whitefield, an English preacher who had converted to Methodism, arrived in the colonies. His forceful sermons in New England, New York, Philadelphia and the southern colonies started a religious movement known as "The Great Awakening." His main topics were sin, regeneration and new birth, the conerstones of the present-day Methodist and Baptist doctrines.

Whitefield made hundreds of converts and many others began to preach the same message. These preachers appealed more to the emotions and feelings of the people than to reason. The business-like sermons of the Anglican Church were forgotten. Common reactions to Whitefield's sermons were crying, fainting, singing, laughing and falling down.[32]

In 1745, William Robinson traveled through Amelia County preaching Whitefield's message. Robinson attracted large crowds and made many converts. Many of the Hurts in Virginia began to convert to the Baptist and Methodist faith at this point, and by 1790, most had converted to the new beliefs. Governor Gooch of Virginia charged the Grand Jury with indicting those who would "lead

the innocent and ignorant people into all kinds of delusion.[33]

Those who became Baptists and Methodists refused to recognize the right of civil authorities to regulate their preaching or their places of worship. The fact that many were imprisoned for preaching an illegal religion only made them heroes in the eyes of many colonists. While most of the new converts were from the lower classes, the doctrine gained converts at all economic levels. The doctrines spread quickly and by 1774, there were more than fifty Baptist churches in Virginia.[34]

The Baptist and Methodist doctrines would eventually dominate religious beliefs in the South. The Hurts who converted would prove to be more than idle followers. In generations to come, the Hurts would provide numerous family members as ministers of the new faith.

Although the Great Awakening completely changed the religious views of many in the South, it also paved the way for the acceptance of new social and political views. The Baptists and Methodists preached self-determination, a democratic church governed by majority vote and a freeing of emotions and feelings. The English hold on the colonies was slipping.[35]

NOTES

[1]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Order Book*, Vol. 1 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Records), p. 20.

[2]Caroline County, Virginia. *Caroline County Order Book, 1732-1740* (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County Records), pp. 24, 34, 41, 45, 48.

[3]*Ibid.*, pp. 101, 105.

[4]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Order Book*, Vol. 1, p. 20.

[5]*Ibid.*, p. 21.

[6]*Ibid.*, pp. 167-168.

[7]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book*, Vol. 2 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Records), p. 19.

[8]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book*, Vol. 1 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Records), p. 456.

[9]*Ibid.*, p. 228.

[10]*Ibid.*

[11]*Ibid.*, p. 235.

[12]*Ibid.*, p. 296.

[13]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Order Book*, Vol. 2, p. 48.

[14]*Ibid.*, p. 330.

[15]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Order Book*, Vol. 3 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Records), p. 209.

[16]*Ibid.*, p. 176.

[17]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Order Book*, Vol. 4A (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Records), p. 209.*Virginia Historical Magazine*, Vol. 32 (1979), p. 56.

[18]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book*, Vol. 6 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Records), p. 331.

[19]Amelia County, Virginia. *Amelia County Deed Book*, Vol. 5 (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Records), p. 37.

[20]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia* (Memphis, TN: [typescript/self- published], September 15, 1958), p. 41.

[21]Halifax County, Virginia. *Halifax County Deed Book*, Vol. 8 (Halifax County, VA: Halifax County Records), p. 231.

[22]State of North Carolina, *Rosters of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolutionary War* (Raleigh, NC: State Archives). No. 2230, p. 411. *microfilm.*

[23]North Carolina. *Census of 1790: Surry County* (Raleigh, NC: State Archives).

[24]Surry County, North Carolina. *Wills [in Surry County]*, Book A (State Archives), p. 12.

[25]Kathleen Halverson Hatfield (ed.), *Historical Notes on Amelia County, Virginia* (Amelia County, VA: Amelia County Historical Committee, 1982), p. 5.

[26]*Ibid.*

[27]*Ibid., p. 6.*

[28]*Ibid.*, p. 22.

[29]Marcus Wilson Jernegan, *The American Colonies, 1492-1750* (New York, NY: Frederick Ungar Publishing Co., 1953), pp. 378-383.

[30]*Ibid.*

[31]*Ibid.*

[32]Thomas Jefferson Wertenbaker, *The Old South ; The Founding of American Civilization* (New York, NY: Cooper Square Publishers, 1963), pp. 155-163.

[33]*Ibid.*

[34]*Ibid.*

[35]Marcus Wilson Jernegan, *The American Colonies, 1492-1750,* pp. 378-383.

Chapter 5

Moses Hurt
--The Fifth Generation--

Moses Hurt was one of the older sons of John Hurt. The grandfather of Moses was William the Elder. Moses was born about 1730 in Caroline County, Virginia, and died in 1806 in Bedford County, Virginia, when he was about seventy-six years old.[1]

He married Ruth Turner, daughter of James Turner, and named seven children in his will: James, Elisha, Nathan, William, Littleberry, Apphia Hurt Stone and Mary Hurt. James is my direct descendent. Moses would live to see his children and grandchildren move even deeper into the frontier and settle in the new territories that would become Tennessee, Louisiana and Kentucky.[2]

Moses was about twenty-five years old when his father John died in 1754 in Amelia County. When John Hurt left Caroline County for Amelia County, Moses and the rest of the family probably accompanied him. Sometime after Moses struck out on his own, he returned to Caroline County. Moses could have returned to buy land, farm land his father had left behind or to renew a romantic interest. Moses also had a number of uncles and

cousins still living in Caroline County. In any event, Moses married in Caroline County and developed a close relationship with James Turner, his father-in-law. In fact, James, the first-born son of Moses, was named after Turner.[3]

Few records exist of Moses Hurt in Caroline County. One interesting record gives us a clue as to when Moses left for Bedford County, Virginia.: *"In the suit on the attachment obtained by Edward Dixon, gent, against the Estate of Moses Hurt, the plt proving his account judgement is granted him against the said deft for eleven pounds seven shillings and seven pence current money and cost and the sherif having made return that he attached one gun of the estate of the said deft it is therefore ordered he cause the said gun to be sold according to law and satisfie the plt judgement therewith if there be money enough arising by the said sale to do the same and make report...."*[4]

Leaving Caroline

Oscar Hurt, in his exhaustive studies on the early Hurts, believed Moses was already in Bedford County by this date, but had left behind a debt to Dixon. To pay off the debt, Dixon evidently claimed a gun Moses had left behind in Caroline County. At the latest, Moses left Caroline County by 1752 since we find both him and James Turner in Bedford County two years later. Moses could have left as early as 1746.[5]

Bedford County became a county in 1754 when it was created out of Lunenburg County. The first Bedford County Court met on May 27, 1754, in the home of Matthew Talbot. This may have been where Moses Hurt and James Turner received permission to build their road. It's not known if Moses was interested in another court action that day when the county liquor prices were set: "If good Barbados, ten shillens per gallon."[6]

Building Roads

On August 26, 1754, we find Moses in Bedford County where he and James Turner, his father-in-law, were given permission to clear a road from Goose Creek to Falling Mountain.[7]

Since newcomers to Bedford County would have built shelter and cleared their land on first arriving, the Turners and Hurts were probably comfortably settled when they decided to build the road. The road would have been important to the settlers in moving their goods to market.

While Moses Hurt was building his road in Bedford and settling in to his life there, England declared war on France in what is known as the French and Indian War. Like Queen Anne's War twelve years before, Bedford County was not threatened; however, three hundred citizens of the county volunteered to serve in the militia. It appears Moses was too busy raising tobacco to

volunteer. The war was over in several years and the Bedford militia saw no action.

The Hurt-Turner connection appears again on March 23, 1761, when James Turner made a deed of gift to Moses Hurt, Ruth Hurt and their son, James, for 200 acres of land on Mobberlys Creek in Bedford County, Virginia. This is another example of how colonial fathers often took care of their children. It also helps pinpoint where Moses and Ruth Hurt were living at this time. James Hurt was about twelve years old at this time.[8]

Records give us an idea of Moses Hurt's standing in the community, when, in July 1762, he took an oath as a constable in Bedford County. These positions were usually reserved for people with land and of good reputation. The main job of the constable was to make sure the orders of the court were carried out. For these duties, the constable was given compensation according to what tasks he performed.[9]

In 1765, relations between the colonies and England took a turn for the worse when the English Parliament passed the Stamp Act. This was done without seeking the approval of the colonial governments. The act required that all legal documents and books in the colonies bear special British tax stamps. The Virginians, led by Patrick Henry, denounced "taxation without representation." The citizens of Bedford, as did most Virginians, boycotted English goods. This ill

will toward the English government may have put Moses in a precarious position since he was constable. Most county governments, however, had the habit of looking the other way when English laws were broken.

While Bedford citizens protested English economic policies in the colonies, many of them also ignored the state religion. In 1770, the results of "The Great Awakening" became apparent in Bedford County when Rev. Nathanial Shrewsbury organized what would become the Goose Creek Baptist Association. The religious convictions of Moses are not on record, but many of the other Hurts in Virginia had converted to the Baptist and Methodist denominations by this time.[10]

We don't find another reference to Moses until 1772 when "at the June 1772 term of court, Moses Hurt, Elisha Hurt and James Hurt were ordered to assist in clearing a road." This is evidence that Bedford County was becoming a little more civilized and a road adjacent to the land of Moses Hurt was needed for the convenience of county citizens. Elisha and James were sons of Moses. They either owned land next to Moses or were still living at home.[11]

War At Last

In 1776, when Moses was about fifty-five, the disputes with England boiled over and the Revolutionary War began. A number of men from

Bedford County cast their lot with the rebels and served in the Continental Army. In 1780, Governor Jefferson asked for three hundred volunteers from Bedford County. Two of Moses' sons, James and Williams, were among this number. Soldiers from Bedford County fought at King's Mountain, Camden, Guilford Courthouse, Ninety-six and Eutaw Springs. There appears to have been little sympathy for the English cause in Bedford and the few that protested the rebellion risked whippings at the hands of the patriots.[12]

Although a number of Bedford men died in the Revolutionary War, William and James survived. Moses was fifty-one years old when the war began. Since two of his sons were away from home for a number of months, he would have had his hands full making sure the crops were planted and harvested. The only time Bedford was touched directly by the war was in 1781 when General Cornwallis, the English commander in the South, sent troops into Bedford County to search for rebel sympathizers. The troops stayed two days and then moved on. The war, for all practical purposes, ended the same year when Cornwallis surrendered his army at Yorktown to General George Washington.[13]

The Sons Come Home

William and James returned home not long afterwards. After five years of war and uncertainty,

Moses and his family resumed their life of raising crops and children.

Despite the economic ravages of war and the problems of setting up a new national government, Moses appears to have prospered. In 1785, Moses shows up as a Virginia taxpayer in Bedford County. He is credited with one poll and two slaves. Since Moses only had two slaves, his land holdings were probably not extensive. But, the record is an indication that Moses was firmly middle class.[14]

By now, Bedford County was no longer on the frontier and had grown to 15,000 people, of which 3,000 were slaves. The growing population and increased agricultural production made new demands on the county government. In 1787, while the Constitutional Convention was busy debating the merits of the proposed constitution, Bedford County voted to build a brick courthouse and saw the opening of the James River Kanawha Canal. Moses and his sons now had a more convenient way to move their goods to market. Cargo could be moved by flatboat down the James 196 miles to Richmond.[15]

One of the last records we have of Moses Hurt is on June 27, 1791, when he and his wife sold 44 acres of land to their daughter Mary Hurt. Since she is identified as a Hurt, she was probably not married. This may have been an effort by Moses to take care of a spinster daughter.[16]

By 1806, Moses had died. His will was dated February 1, 1802, and was probated on July 28, 1806, in Bedford County. Moses was in his early seventies when he died. In his will, Moses listed his wife and seven children.

Moses Hurt moved into Bedford County when it was a frontier county, endured the Revolution, prospered and saw seven children survive to adulthood. By the time of his death, the United States had elected three Presidents and the population of Virginia had grown to nearly one million people. The frontier was opening up and Moses' sons and grandsons would soon be on the move.

Moses Hurt's Children

Mary Hurt was one of Moses' daughters. She is listed in the 1791 land transaction. She was still unmarried in 1802 when Moses made his will. This is the last mention of this Mary.[17]

Apphia Hurt was another daughter of Moses. All we know of her is that she married a Mr. Stone.[18]

James Hurt was probably the oldest son of Moses. He may have been named for his grandfather, James Turner. This James carried on my line of the Hurts. His story is told in Chapter 6.

Elisha Hurt was the second son of Moses. He married Mildred Stratton. She was called Millie. Elisha spent his life in Bedford County and died

there in 1810. He had twelve children. Three of his children, Bird, Moses and Elisha, Jr., ended up in Maury County, Tennessee, along with their Uncle James, of my line.

William Hurt, yet another son, was born in Bedford County, Virginia, in 1757. William served with his brother James in the Revolutionary War. By 1800, he was living in Green County, Kentucky, with his wife Sarah. His land there was probably a bounty awarded for his time spent as a soldier. He died in Adair County, Kentucky, in 1842. His will is on record there.[19]

The last son of Moses Hurt was Littleberry. He spent his early years in Bedford County, Virginia, and was living in Adams County (Parish), Louisiana, in 1801.[20]

Of Moses Hurt's six children, only two, Elisha and Mary, remained in Bedford County. The rest moved on to the frontiers in their search for cheap land. The family was typical of the other Hurts in Virginia. Once the land was exhausted, or the families grew too large, land that stretched from the coastal states to the Mississippi beckoned. The Hurts, like most of the expanded colonial families, wanted their own land, even if it meant enduring the harsh life offered in the new territories.

Moses Hurt's Virginia

The decision to move to Bedford County from Caroline County in the mid-eighteenth century was

not an easy one for Moses Hurt. It meant leaving home, family and friends behind. It also meant building a new home, clearing new lands and putting up with the inconveniences of frontier life. But for thousands of Virginians, the lure of fresh land was motivation enough to strike out for the unknown. Land gave the early settlers not only the opportunity to better themselves, but more importantly, a freedom that few people in the world at that time experienced.

The growing number of slaves in the colonies during the 1700s also provided incentive. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, a man, his sons and a few indentured servants could work their land and make a good living. But, by the time Moses Hurt moved to Bedford County, a middle-class farmer with slaves could increase his production, buy more land and still have money left over. The cost of moving the harvested tobacco to the coast for transporting to England was nothing compared to the profits.

But while the promise of increased profits lured many colonists west, they left behind the well structured life of the Tidewater region.

Although the counties being settled in the Virginia Piedmont were regarded as civilized, the farmer and his family still had to be on guard against wolves killing their sheep, provide their own medical remedies, and be self-sufficient in every way.

Bedford County farmers, whether they owned large plantations, or only a hundred acres, had to grow or make almost everything they used. The reason for this was the high cost of transporting goods up the James River from Williamsburg or Richmond. Moses Hurt and his neighbors grew hemp for flax and cotton for rope, linen and cotton cloth. They raised sheep to provide wool for their spinners, operated their own stills, dipped candles, and made hogsheads for shipping their tobacco. A typical farm would have had a blacksmith shop, brick kiln, distillery, tan yard, loom and possibly a grist mill.[21]

Johann David Schopf traveled through Virginia after the Revolution and wrote of his observations. He reported that although cotton was becoming an important crop, tobacco still provided the farmers the means to afford the items such as coffee, tea, sugar and drugs--things they couldn't grow or make on their farms.[22]

In Moses Hurt's day, however, the focus of life for the Bedford County farmer, however independent, always returned to tobacco. It was a crop that built many of the fine Virginia estates and gave the middle-class farmers a better life. Tobacco also ruined the soil and caused the Virginians to cut down many of fine forests that originally covered the land.

In the case of Moses Hurt, he was the fifth generation of a family that had constantly searched

for new land to replace the soil depleted by tobacco growing. Fortunately, for the Hurts, new land was always available to the south and west. It wasn't until the beginning of the nineteenth century that the farmers in Virginia and other states began to ween themselves from the tobacco culture. By 1806, when Moses Hurt died, most of the soil in Virginia was worn out and erosion colored the great rivers a deep red. Since almost every farmer who had a few acres grew tobacco, the market was glutted and prices dropped. The farmers turned to wheat. The French became one of the prime importers of American wheat to feed Napoleon's armies. The growth of American cities along the coast also provided another market. Farmers found it was better to raise wheat at a dollar a bushel than tobacco at $8 a hundred pounds. At the same time, farmers began to use scientific methods of crop rotation, fertilizers and deep, terraced plowing.[23]

The Hurts who stayed behind in Virginia and the Carolinas could now be content with a comfortable living. The large families of the day posed another problem though. The few hundred acres belonging to Moses Hurt were not enough to support four sons and two daughters and their families. Again, eyes turned west toward the fertile lands of Tennessee and Kentucky. This would be the home for the next exodus of the Hurts.[24]

NOTES

[1]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia* (Memphis, TN: [typescript/self- published], September 15, 1958), p. 58.

[2]*Ibid.*

[3]*Ibid.*

[4]Caroline County, Virginia. *Caroline County Order Book 1746-1754* (Caroline County, VA: Caroline County Records), p. 464.

[5]*Ibid.*

[6]*Peter Utemeister, Historical Diary of Bedford County Virginia* (Bedford, VA: Hamilton's [Publishing Co.], 1986), pp. 5-15.

[7]Bedford County, Virginia. *Bedford County Order Book 1754-1761*, 1B (Bedford County, VA: Bedford County Records), p. 15.

[8]Bedford County, Virginia. *Bedford County Deed Book 1754-1761*, 1A (Bedford County, VA: Bedford County Records), p. 387.

[9]Bedford County, Virginia. *Bedford County Order Book 1754-1761*, 2 (Bedford County, VA: Bedford County Records), p. 57.

[10]*Peter Utemeister, Historical Diary of Bedford County Virginia*, pp. 5-15.

[11]Bedford County, Virginia. *Bedford County Order Book 1754-1761*, 4 (Bedford County, VA: Bedford County Records), p. 64.

[12]*Peter Utemeister, Historical Diary of Bedford County Virginia*, pp. 5-15.

[13]*Ibid.*

[14]State of Virginia. *Virginia Taxpayers, 1782-1787* (Richmond, VA: State Records Building), p. 64.

[15]*Peter Utemeister, Historical Diary of Bedford County Virginia*, pp. 5-15.

[16]Bedford County, Virginia. *Bedford County Deed Book 1754-1761*, 8 (Bedford County, VA: Bedford County Records), p. 464.

[17]*Ibid.*, p. 462,

[18]*Ibid.*

[19]Oscar H. Hurt, *The Early Hurt Family of Virginia*, p. 98.

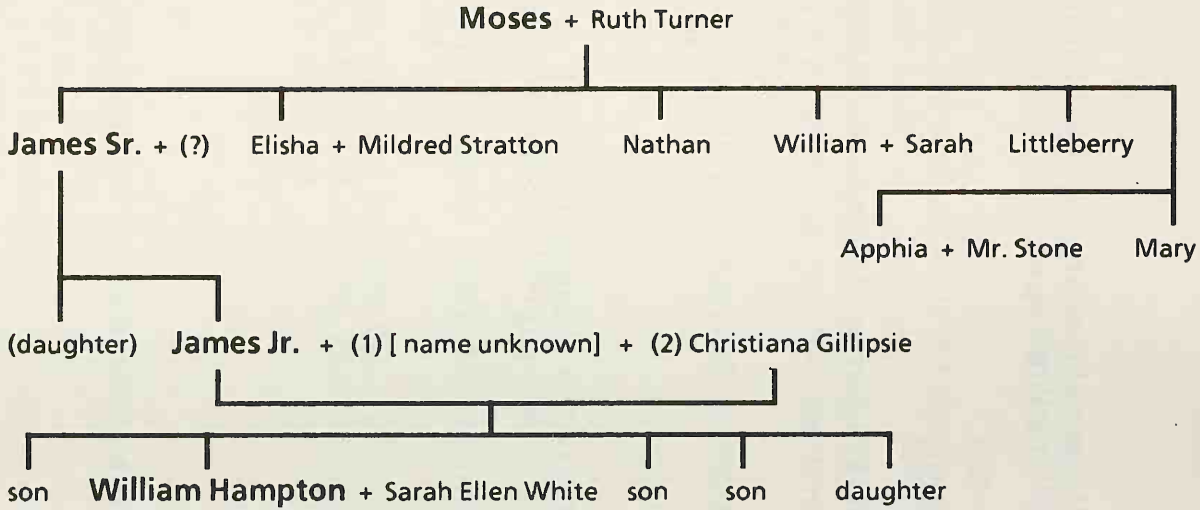
[20]*Ibid.*

[21]*Peter Utemeister, Historical Diary of Bedford County Virginia*, pp. 5-15.

[22]*Ibid.*

[23]*Ibid.*

[24]1820 Census of Tennessee. Microfilm.


Moses + Ruth Turner
James Sr. + (?)
Elisha + Mildred Stratton
Nathan
William + Sarah
Littleberry
Apphia + Mr. Stone
Mary
(daughter)
James Jr. + (1) [name unknown] + (2) Christiana Gillipsie
son
William Hampton + Sarah Ellen White
son
son
daughter

Chapter 6

James Hurt
--The Sixth Generation--

James Hurt was born in 1749, almost one hundred years after William Hurt came to Virginia from England. He was a farmer and Revolutionary War veteran. James was born in Bedford County, Virginia, and died after 1823 in Maury County, Tennessee. (Oscar Hurt)

Records reveal little about this James Hurt, but what they do show is significant. James fought in four important battles of the Revolutionary War: Camden, Guilford Courthouse, Ninety-Six and Eutaw Springs. He was also one of the early settlers of middle Tennessee.[1]

James Hurt was one of the older sons of Moses and Ann Turner Hurt. I have found no evidence that James Hurt bought or sold land in Bedford County. It's possible he worked for his father and owned no land. Further investigation may eventually yield records.[2]

The first record of James Hurt appears on March 23, 1761, when James Turner made a deed of gift to Moses Hurt, Ruth Hurt and James, for 200 acres of land on Mobberlys Creek in Bedford County, Virginia. It's unusual that James, who was

about twelve-years old at this time, was also listed on the deed by his grandfather. James was named for his grandfather, so Turner may have merely been showing his affection for his grandson. Since Moses and Ann Turner Hurt had other sons by this time, James was undoubtedly the first-born.[3]

The next reference we have of James Hurt is in June 1772 when Moses Hurt, Elisha Hurt and James Hurt were ordered to help clear a road. James and Elisha, sons of Moses, were either living with their father, or owned land nearby. James was twenty-three years old at the time. Elisha may have been the second oldest son.[4]

The Revolution Begins

After 1772, James disappears from Bedford County records for eight years. In the interim, the civil disobedience practiced by the colonists turned into revolution. James, as did most of his fellow Bedford citizens, stayed at home during the early years of the war and either supported the war effort by providing food and supplies, or ignored the conflict.

Even though there was no fighting in Bedford County during the Revolutionary War, its residents still suffered from a depressed economy and high inflation. The British naval blockade of the colonies closed the British market for tobacco. The blockade was a disaster for Virginians since most farmers in that state relied on tobacco as their cash crop. The only way Virginia tobacco could leave the colonies

was by ships trying to slip by the British warships at night. Only about half the ships that tried were successful in getting patriot goods to ports in Haiti, Bilbao or Nantes. If the ships made it safely through the blockade, they still had to make it back. Those that did returned with scarce goods needed by the colonists. Although the colonists could feed and clothe themselves, they relied on imports for coffee, tea, sugar, molasses, wine, glass, paper, ironware and some military equipment. These items sold for high prices which only added to the inflated economy.[5]

Answering The Call

In 1780, the war moved closer to home as the British decided, once and for all, to wipe out the small, scattered bands of Southerners who were still resisting. To counter this move, the Continental Congress authorized General Horatio Gates to raise an army in an attempt to counter the British move. American recruiters visited many of the Virginian counties that had thus far escaped the war. When Colonel William Lynch visited Bedford County and made a plea for volunteers, more than three hundred men signed up. James and his brother William were among that number. They enlisted in Liberty Town on July 30, 1780, for eighteen months of duty. James was thirty-one years old.[6]

The militiamen Colonal Lynch raised in Bedford quickly marched south toward North Carolina. They were joined by other Virginia

militiamen until their numbers reached about 800. When they reached Deep River in North Carolina, they discovered General Gates had taken his army and moved toward Camden, South Carolina. After almost two weeks of marching, the Virginians caught up with General Gates and the main army a few miles from Camden. The patriot army now numbered about 3,000 men while Lord Cornwallis rested in Camden with about 2,300 British troops. However, more than two-thirds of the Americans were militia who had never been in battle.[7]

The Battle of Camden

On August 16, 1780, the two armies met. Gates had placed the Virginia militia on his left wing and ordered them to attack. The Virginians were not used to fighting by formation and moved forward piecemeal. Cornwallis immediately sent his veteran troops against the green Virginians. After firing a few volleys, the Virginia militia broke and ran. Many of the North Carolina militiamen followed the Virginians. The Americans who were left on the field fought bravely against overwhelming odds. Finally, they also ran. Gates had already fled the battle and rode 60 miles to Charlotte without stopping. More than 600 patriots were killed or wounded while the British lost only about 300 men.[8]

The Virginia militia, who had scarcely fired a shot, fled toward Hillsborough, North Carolina, where Gates attempted to reform his army.

Because of his incompetence, Gates was replaced on December 3, 1780, by Nathanael Greene. A southerner, Greene understood how to use the untrained militia. He would soon begin a brilliant campaign that would drive the British out of the southern colonies.[9]

To outmaneuver the British, Greene moved into South Carolina. He divided his army with plans to reunite after slipping by the British. He sent about 1,000 men with Daniel Morgan and kept the rest under his command. Greene moved back into North Carolina without any trouble. Morgan, however, was followed by the British under the command of Banastre Tarleton. Morgan's continentals and militia shocked the British by standing their ground at the Battle of Cowpens. When the smoke had cleared, the Americans had killed, wounded or captured almost all of Tarleton's command. Tarleton was one of the few who escaped.[10]

With the rest of the British army following him, Morgan hurried into North Carolina where he found Greene and the rest of the American army. Greene now believed he had enough men to fight the British regulars. On March 15, Greene formed his army of 4,500 men at Guilford Courthouse. He did not have to wait long. Cornwallis, although he only had about 2,000 men, was eager to avenge the defeat at Cowpens. He attacked.[11]

The Battle of Guilford Courthouse

Greene placed his militia in two rows and the regulars behind them. James, William and their fellow militiamen from Bedford had another chance to redeem themselves. As the British lines approached the militiamen, the Americans opened fire. The fire from the Virginians' long rifles stopped several British advances, but eventually, the British bayonets broke the Virginians and they once again ran. The continentals then stood toe-to-toe with the British and exchanged volleys. Finally, with no reserves left, Greene retreated. It appeared Cornwallis had won a great victory over a larger army. In reality, he had lost 500 men, almost a fourth of his command. The Americans had only about 300 casualties. The British army was wounded and the Virginia militia had partially atoned for Camden.[12]

The Siege of Ninety-Six

The next stop for James and William Hurt was the British fortification at Ninety-Six. Greene besieged the British and Tory forces there. After several weeks, a British army under Lord Rawdon arrived and broke the siege. The Americans withdrew. The British, fearful of another attack, then vacated Ninety-Six. Again, Greene lost the battle, but was winning the war.[13]

James and William Hurt had now served one year each. They had been involved in three major battles and had seen friends killed and wounded.

But Greene's men were now veterans and ready to drive the British out of the Carolinas. They would soon have their chance.[14]

The Battle of Eutaw Springs

That chance came on September 8, 1781, at Eutaw Springs, South Carolina. Greene once again lined his army of farmers and backwoodsmen up against what was regarded as the finest army in the world. As the two armies clashed, the continentals and militia stood shoulder to shoulder. This time, the Virginia militiamen stood their ground. After a fierce battle, the British broke. With victory in sight, Greene's bad luck continued.[15]

As the Americans chased the British, they stumbled on the enemy's camp. They interrupted the chase to confiscate the food and drink the rum the British left behind. The lull in the battle gave the British time to reform and they returned to the battle. Since the patriot troops were now disorganized, and many of them drunk, Greene wisely retreated. Although the British claimed the victory, they lost more than 800 men killed and wounded. Cornwallis had no choice but to retreat to Charleston.[16]

After Eutaw Springs, the British remained behind their fortifications in Charleston and Savannah. Except for a few cities, the Americans had freed the Carolinas from the British. With the fighting over in North Carolina, James and William Hurt were given their discharge on December 31,

1781, and allowed to return home to Bedford County. A few months later, Cornwallis would surrender to Washington and the war, for all practical purposes, was over.[17]

Back Home in Bedford

The discharged veterans returned home with little money. The pay for American soldiers was dismal. The monthly salary for a soldier would barely pay for a bottle of rum. After the war, the new government did give grants of lands to those who had served, but the grant was based on rank and time served. William Hurt received a grant of land in Kentucky and moved there in the 1790s. There are no records of James Hurt having received a land grant for his time spent as a soldier.[18]

Greener Pastures In Tennessee

James disappears from the records until the 1810 Census of Virginia. He is shown as still living in Bedford County, Virginia. His son, James, Jr., was also living in Bedford County. Sometime between 1810 and 1820, James, Sr., and James, Jr., made the move to Tennessee since they turn up in Maury County, Tennessee, in time for the next census. The 1820 census records for Tennessee show James to be about 72 years old and living next to his son James, Jr. Also living with James, Sr., was his wife, his daughter and her small child.[19]

The 1820 Census only lists the head of the household and ages of those living with that person. As a result, we don't know the names of

the older James' wife or his daughter. Because of his pension papers filed the next year, we know his wife was seventy two and his daughter was twenty five. James, Jr., who is listed in the census under a separate household, was between twenty-five and forty-five years old. This would indicate James, Sr., didn't marry until after the Revolutionary War was over. He was forty-seven years old when his daughter was born, an unusually late start for a family in those days.[20]

James may have returned to his father's farm in Bedford County after the war and stayed on with him. He also had a portion of his father's land that was deeded to him by James Turner, his grandfather. When Moses Hurt died in 1806 and his estate was dissolved, James, Sr., struck out for Tennessee with a number of other Hurts from Bedford County. By 1810, the Hurts from Bedford were beginning to settle Maury County.[21]

The Government Pension

Whatever the reason for James' move to Tennessee, Government pension papers, filed in 1819, show him in poor health and with few assets. In filing for his pension, James Hurt gave his age as seventy years old and said he was, "in reduced circumstances and stands in need of the assistance of his country for support." He was awarded a pension of $8 per month for sixteen months' service as a private in Captain Thomas Boyer's Company, Colonel Campbell's Regiment of the Virginia Line.[22]

On June 21, 1821, James Hurt filed his schedule of property as required by the Pension Act of May 1, 1820. He described himself as, *"as 72 years and in my 73rd year and by profession a tiller of the earth."* He also said he had poor eyesight and was *"otherwise infirm so that I cannot by my labour support myself and my family."* His family consisted of his wife, who was near his own age, and a daughter, aged about twenty-five, who had a small child. His property consisted of: *"one cow and calf; one little old mare 13 or 14 years old; two indifferent beds; one set of knives and forks; one set of earthen plates; one pot and oven; six hogs; one dozen Gunghill fowls; one broken looking glass; two old razers; one Jack bill knife; one bridle and saddle; and one pair of saddle bags."* The statement, which was written by a lawyer in Columbia, Tennessee, was signed by James Hurt, Sr., with his mark, an X.[23]

After the 1820 census, references to James Hurt, Sr., are difficult to find. James Hurt, Sr., in his petition to the Government to gain a larger war pension, leads us to believe he is living in poverty and unable to make ends meet. Although this may have been true, 1823 tax records for Maury County show James Hurt, Sr., was taxed for 300 acres of land. Perhaps the elderly Hurt was land rich and money poor. Since James, Sr., was past seventy-years of age and in poor health, his son may have been taking care of his father's land.

James Hurt, Sr., is not listed in the 1830 Census of Tennessee. Because he describes himself as being in poor health in his request for an increased pension, James Hurt, Sr., was probably dead by 1830.

By living to be at least seventy-four years old, James Hurt, Sr., far surpassed the lifespan most men of that day expected. He survived the Revolutionary War, raised a family and had enough gumption in his later years to haul his family and possessions across the mountains to start over in Tennessee. He was typical of his ancestors who were always ready for the challenge of the frontier.

Other Hurts in the Revolution

While James Hurt and his brother William survived the southern campaign of General Nathanael Greene, there were other Hurts who made equal contributions during the Revolutionary War.

One such veteran was Benjamin Hurt, who was born in Caroline County, Virginia, and served as a private in the Continental Army. He was born in 1759 and was at least twenty-six years old when he enlisted. Benjamin married Frances Richerson after the war on January 10, 1795. Benjamin died in 1834 at the age of seventy five.[24]

Moza Hurt, probably a cousin of Benjamin Hurt, was also from Caroline County. Moza was born in 1728 and was about forty-eight years old

when the Revolution began. Moza Hurt may not have been a soldier, but a patriot who helped supply and feed the army. He married his second wife, Phebe Mann, in Halifax County, Virginia, on April 18, 1782. Moza died in 1791 at the age of sixty-two. He is listed in the register of the Daughters of the American Revolution.[25]

Another James Hurt is also listed as having served during the war. This James served as a private. He was born about 1760 and married Agnes Harrison of Halifax County, Virginia, on June 20, 1782. This James, who was sixteen years old when the war started, died in 1819.[26]

Zachariah Hurt, of Prince Edward County, Virginia, was born in 1763 and served as a private during his enlistment. He was only thirteen when the Revolution began. He married Fanny Mitchell on June 7, 1787, and lived until 1841.[27]

West Dandridge Hurt was another veteran of the war. He served as a private for three years and later received a land bounty for his service. He may have moved to Tennessee to claim his land.[28]

John Hurt was another in a long line of Hurts who served during the Revolutionary War. His unique position and dedication to the patriot cause have earned him a special place in history.

John was born in 1752 and was the son of James Hurt and Jane Bickley Hurt. He was a chaplain and served seven long years in the army of General George Washington. After the war, John

received a land bounty of more than five-thousand acres. True to his beliefs, he gave his land rights to his nieces and nephews. He was also a Mason and a member of the Grand Lodge of Virginia at Williamsburg. Peyton Randolph was a grand master. After the war, John Hurt became the first chaplain of the regular army of the United States. He served until 1794.

One of his wartime sermons survives. The following is an excerpt of an address John Hurt made to the first and second Virginia Brigades at the deu de joye at Valley Forge. It was delivered on May 6, 1778, during the celebration by the army of the treaty with France:

"By the wisdom of our councills, and the magnanimous perseverence of our troops, during three campaigns, we have at length received the most manifest tokens of Divine approbation; and now, by the alliance of a great and warlike European power, we stand in a situation that bids defiance to our enemies--a situation which affords the fairest prospect--the blessings of Peace, Liberty and Safety, the end of our warfare--For these ye fought, for these ye bled--and not in vain.....Let us then join in one general acclaimation to celebrate this important event; and while our voices proclaim our joy, let our hearts glow with

gratitude to the God of nations, who is able to help us, and whose arm is might to save...."[29]

NOTES

[1]*Pension Applications for Veterans of the Revolutionary War.* Microfilm.

[2]Bedford County, Virginia. *Bedford County Deed Book* 1A (Bedford County, VA: Bedford Country Records), p. 387.

[3]*Ibid.*

[4]Bedford County, Virginia. *Bedford County Order Book* 4 (Bedford County, VA: Bedford Country Records), p. 64.

[5]John R. Alden, *A History of the American Revolution* (New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1969), p. 247.

[6]*Pension Applications for Veterans of the Revolutionary War.*

[7]Nat and Sam Hildborn, *Battleground of Freedom* (Columbia, SC: Sandlapper Press, 1970), pp. 131-144.

[8]John R. Alden, *A History of the American Revolution,* pp. 419-422.

[9]*Ibid.*

[10]Nat and Sam Hildborn, *Battleground of Freedom,* pp. 145-154.

[11]John R. Alden, *A History of the American Revolution,* pp. 463-464.

[12]*Ibid.*

[13]*Ibid.*, p. 427.

[14]Nat and Sam Hildborn, *Battleground of Freedom,* pp. 145-154.

[15]*Ibid.*, p. 466.

[16]*Ibid.*

[17]*Pension Applications for Veterans of the Revolutionary War.*

[18]Nat and Sam Hildborn, *Battleground of Freedom,* pp. 203-215.

[19]*1820 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.* Microfilm.

[20]*Pension Applications for Veterans of the Revolutionary War.*

[21]*Ibid.*

[22]*Ibid.*

[23]John Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution* (Richmond, VA: The Dietz Press, 1938), p. 405.

[24]*Ibid.*

[25]*Ibid.*

[26]*Ibid.*

[27]*Ibid.*

[28]*Ibid.*

[29]*Virginia Historical Magazine,* Vol. 17 (1909), p. 212.

Chapter 7

James Hurt, Jr.
--The Seventh Generation--

James Hurt, Jr., is another obscure figure in the search for the Hurt line. Only bits and pieces of his life are available for researchers. He was typical, however, of the thousands of Virginians and Carolinians who rushed into Tennessee in the early 1800s with little more than their shirt on their back. As in previous generations of Hurts, the motivation to move was fertile land that could be bought cheaply.

The first record we have of James Hurt, Jr., is in the 1810 census for Virginia. Both James, Jr., and his father, James, Sr., are listed as residents of Bedford County.[1] James, Jr., was living in Maury County, Tennessee, by 1815 since his son, William Hampton Hurt, was born in Tennessee at that time. William Hampton Hurt is the subject of Chapter 8.[2]

It appears James, Jr., may have persuaded his father, James, Sr., to move with him to Tennessee. But, they did not travel alone. A number of cousins who had grown up with James, Jr., in Bedford County also made the move. The appeal of fresh land once again moved a generation of Hurts to

leave their settled lives and move toward the frontier.

Pioneers in Middle Tennessee

The first record we have of James, Jr., living in Maury County comes from the records of a son, William Hampton Hurt. In the 1850 Census of Mississippi, William Hampton states he was born in 1815 in Tennessee. That would mean James, Jr., was already settle in Maury County with his cousins and father.[3] In 1818, James, Sr., who was living near Columbia in Maury County, Tennessee, filed a petition with the government to increase the pension granted him for service during the Revolutionary War. The petition states that a son, James, Jr., lived near him.[4] At least three cousins of James, Jr., were also living in Maury County.[5]

More proof that James, Jr., was in Maury by 1818 comes from Maury County marriage records. They show that James Hurt married Christiana Galaspie on November 24, 1818. Their marriage certificate was filed on November 26, 1818, by John Field, Justice of the Peace. This would have been at least the second marriage for James since his son William Hampton Hurt was born in 1815, unless William was born out of wedlock. Since James, Jr., and his father were the only two Hurts by that name in Maury County at that time, and James, Sr., already had a wife, it appears it was James, Jr., who married Christiana.[6]

James, Jr., appears next in the 1820 Census of Tennessee. The census shows him living in Maury County with eight in his family. The census lists three males under 10 years of age, one male between 10 and 16, and one male between 26 and 45 living in the household. James, Jr., also had two daughters. The younger was under 10 years of age and the older between 10 and 16. James' wife was between 26 and 45 years of age. The ages of the children indicate that one, or both, of the parents had been married before. James was at least thirty-years old at this time which would mean he was born by at least 1790, and possibly sooner.[7]

After the 1820 census, references to James Hurt, Jr., are difficult to find. James Hurt, Sr., in his petition to the Government to gain a larger war pension, leads us to believe he is living in poverty and unable to make ends meet. Although this may have been true, 1823 tax records for Maury County show James Hurt, Sr., was taxed for 300 acres of land. James, Jr., on the the other hand, is shown as owning only forty-five acres of land. This was a rather meager parcel for a man with eight in his family. Since James, Sr., was past seventy years of age and in poor health, his son may have been taking care of his father's land.[8]

The last reference to James, Jr., I've been able to find is February 22, 1827. On this date, James and Bird Hurt were witnesses to the will of John McCormack. This seems to indicate James and Bird

were neighbors since witnesses to wills were usually neighbors or relatives.[9]

Prosperity Or Poverty

Although Bird accumulated more than 1,000 acres in his life, James, Jr., appears to have owned less than 100 acres, unless he inherited his father's land.[10] It's possible that James, Jr., may have raised livestock instead of farming. It was the custom of herders in middle Tennessee to let their livestock, pigs and cattle roam freely in the forests. The livestock, unlike our pampered, hybrid livestock, lived off whatever grew wild. When it was time to sell the livestock, the herder merely rounded up what stock he could find.[11]

After 1827, there are no further references to James Hurt, Jr., or his father in Tennessee, Alabama or Mississippi. Between 1830 and 1840, many of the Hurts who were born in Tennessee moved south to land opening up for settlement in Alabama. The land prices in Tennessee had become too rich for the small farmer.[12] Both James, Jr., and his father may have died before 1830, or James, Jr., may have moved into Alabama and disappeared in the back country. The next record we have of any member of the family of James, Jr., is when his son William Hampton Hurt appears in Noxubee County, Mississippi, in 1846.[13]

James Hurt, Jr, however, is typical of thousands of southerners, born in Virginia and the Carolinas, who cast their lot in Tennessee. They

were a hardy bunch who didn't take kindly to interference by government of any kind. Their spirit of independence was carried on by their kin into Mississippi and Alabama.

Cousin Bird

While we know little about the life of James Hurt, Jr., a number of his relatives and cousins are more easily tracked. These cousins, and other Hurts, many of whom prospered in Tennessee, left an excellent history of their time in pre-Civil War Tennessee. It is through their lives that we get an idea of what life may have been like for James, Jr.

The best known of the Hurts in Maury County was Bird Stratton Hurt. He was a son of Elisha Hurt of Bedford County, Virginia. Three of Bird's brothers, Moses, Joseph and Elisha, also moved to Maury County from Virginia.

Bird Hurt was in Maury County as early as March 22, 1810, when he bought a lot in Columbia, the county seat. By 1811, Bird was well enough established to be appointed a constable for the circuit court.[14] The next year, he was given a permit to operate an "Ordinary" on his land near Elk Trace. Both Bird and his brother Moses operated "Ordinaries" on their land. These establishments were a combination roadhouse for travelers who needed a place to spend the night and tavern. On March 28, 1812, Bird Hurt ran an ad in the Western Chronicle, a Columbia newspaper, stating he would

"find storage and sell whiskey or other liquor on a commission of 10 percent." The lot Bird bought in Columbia may have housed a store for this purpose.[15]

Two years later, during the War of 1812, Bird volunteered, along with 1,864 other Maury men, to serve under General Andrew Jackson. Ten companies were formed and a captain was appointed for each company. Bird Hurt was one of the captains named. Most of these companies took part in battles against the Creek Indians in Alabama. Many of the volunteers were only teenagers.[16] Two other Hurts, Floyd and Philip, volunteered for duty from Davidson County.[17]

The Maury County volunteers gathered at Rally Hill before they left to fight the Creek Indians, the allies of the British. Rally Hill was about 15 miles southeast of Columbia and near Elk Trace, where Bird Hurt lived.

While Bird was fighting the Creeks, his brother Joseph Hurt, stayed home and bought 408 acres on Big Tombigby Creek.[18]

The Family Grows

By 1823, many of the Hurts were prospering in Maury County. The Tax List for that year shows Moses Hurt owning 170 acres on Cedar Creek, Elisha Hurt with 200 acres on the Duck River, and Bird Hurt with 275 acres near Columbia. All of these Hurts owned slaves. James Hurt, Jr., and his father, James,

Sr., seemed to have owned land near Bird, but owned no slaves.[19]

Business was good for Bird and by 1832, he owned 1076 acres and eight slaves. His brother Elisha owned 300 acres and six slaves. Bird lived about nineteen miles northeast of Columbia, on the Franklin and Lewisburg Pike. The small settlement there was named Hurt's X Roads. In 1830, Bird Hurt had donated land there to the Methodists for a church. The church was the New Hope Methodist Church. In 1873, Hurt's X Roads was renamed Glenn's after R. A. Glenn who opened a store there in 1854. This Glenn married Margaret Hurt, Bird's daughter. He was a Tennessee legislator from 1873 to 1878.[20]

Bird married Susan White, the daughter of Thomas White. She was born in 1791 and died in 1854. Susan White Hurt was buried in the Hurt Cemetery near the present location of Glenn's. Bird and Susan had four children, William S., born about 1811; Elizabeth S., who remained single and died before 1841; Margaret Jane, who married R. A. Glenn; and Susan M.[21]

In 1836, Bird Hurt died of cancer. The Maury County records show he died in Maury County. Actually, Bird, sick with cancer, was taken on horseback by his son William to Hot Springs, Arkansas, to bath in the natural springs. While "taking the cure," Bird died on October 19, 1836.

His son brought him back to Maury County where Bird Hurt was buried.[22]

Bird's brother, Moses, had died earlier in 1829. His wife's name was Mary. Moses left six children behind: Emily, Joel, John, Mary, Monroe and Elisha. Moses also had eleven slaves.[23] By 1850, only Bird Hurt's widow and several children remained in Maury County. The rest of the Hurts had moved on.[24]

Other Hurts

While the Hurts in Maury County scattered after the deaths of Bird, Moses and their brothers, a number of other Hurts were still living in Tennessee. Two of the most notable were James M. and Robert Hurt, both Baptist ministers.[25] These two Hurts, sons of Philemon Hurt, a noted preacher in Virginia, were in Carroll County by 1830 according to the 1830 Tennessee Census.[26]

James M. was about thirty-three years of age and had seven children living at home with him and his wife Martha. His brother Robert is also listed in the census. He was twenty years old and single. Thirty-one other Hurts and their families were also living in Tennessee at that time.[27]

James M. and Robert not only harvested souls, but tobacco and other produce as well. The success of James M. as a planter can be measured by the twenty-one slaves he owned. Robert further reflected the capitalistic tendencies of many southern ministers by owning thirteen slaves.[28]

By 1840, James M. Hurt had eleven in his family including three children under the age of five. His slave holdings had dropped to sixteen. Robert had five children, but had increased his slave holdings to forty-one. The Hurt families in Tennessee totaled twenty-three.[29]

The 1850 census shows James M. still living in Carroll County long after many of the Hurts had moved into Alabama and Mississippi. The census lists James M. as fifty-three. His wife Martha was fifty-one and six children were still living at home. Since his brother Robert is not listed in the census, he had either died or moved to another state. There is a Robert M. Hurt listed in the census. His age, thirty-two, shows he was a son of either the missing Robert Hurt, or James M. This census shows thirty-six Hurt families living in Tennessee.[30]

Life In Tennessee

Tennessee, along with Kentucky, became the safety valves for the Americans cooped up behind the mountain ranges that separated the original thirteen states from the frontier. The trickle of settlers that began to find their way over the mountains from Virginia and North Carolina before the Revolutionary War became a flood by 1800. By 1810, more than 150,000 free people were living in Tennessee. Almost 8,000 of these people lived in Maury County. By contrast, Davidson County, just to the north of Maury County, had about 6,500

people. Nashville, the county seat of Davidson, had 345 people.[31]

Two separate waves of settlers moved into Tennessee. The first wave was herders and hunters who homesteaded on land previously occupied by the Indians. The herders let their livestock run wild in the forests and meadows. Although there were many herds of cattle in Tennessee, the landscape favored the raising of hogs, which grew fat on the nuts and roots of the forests. Once a year, the livestock was collected by the herders and driven in large herds to eastern markets.

The typical frontier home was a one-room log cabin with a loft. The boys of the family slept upstairs. The floor was usually earth or log slabs. The roof was made of white oak slabs, supported by ridepoles and wooden pegs, since nails weren't available. After the walls were finished, doors and windows were sawed out. The windows were covered by glazed paper and wooden shutters. On one side of the room was a huge fireplace, for cooking and heat.

The furnishings were primitive. Early bed frames were slabs of wood supported at one end by wooden pegs driven into the wall; mattresses were bed ticks filled with straw or pine needles and covered with animal skins. Spoons whittled out of wood and hunting knives served for table use; plates were of pewter or wood. The gourd served many purposes.

Many of these items are similar to the inventory of household goods listed by James Hurt, Sr., when he submitted a list of his possessions to the Federal Government in 1818.

The dress of the early pioneers was provided by their surroundings. The hunting shirt, generally of deerskin, fitted loosely and reached half way down the thighs and was fringed at the bottom. Trousers were of similar material, and moccasins were of dressed buckskin or buffalo hide. Pioneer women wore dresses of linsey or osnaburg, a coarse linen, dyed in different colors.

Food was simple. Corn was made into johnnycakes or cooked as hominy or mush. Some was distilled into liquor. Wild animals supplied most of the meat, but as herds and flocks increased, domestic animals were slaughtered. Meat was preserved by salting or jerking, that is, by stringing meat over strips of wood to dry over a slow fire. Vegetables, fruits, nuts, maple sugar, and honey supplemented the diets.

Homes of more prosperous inhabitants were larger and better furnished. Many were frame homes, later bricks or stone. By 1800, there were several fine homes in Columbia, the county seat of Maury County. The Polk home there is a good example of early Tennessee architecture. James Polk, later the eleventh President of the United States, lived there. Polk was about the same age as James Hurt, Jr.

For many years wagon trains from Baltimore or Richmond carried goods to stock the stores that sprang up in each little town in Tennessee. The wagons carried back the produce of the county taken in the customary bartering process. Some of the wagons went on across the mountains to Nashville, but most of Middle Tennessee's imports came by wagon from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, then either by river down the Ohio and up the Cumberland, or by water from Pittsburgh to Kentucky and then by wagon to Nashville. After the Americans obtained the right to navigate the Mississippi River, some of Nashville's imports came from New Orleans, but that was difficult before the coming of the steamboat. Most of Middle Tennessee's exports went down the Cumberland, Ohio and Mississippi to New Orleans by flatboat or keelboat. There, the boats, as well as the cargoes were sold, and the boatmen returned over the Natchez Trace to Nashville, or took passage on sailing vessels to Philadelphia or Baltimore and from there returned to Tennessee.[32]

Life was good in Maury County. It was near Nashville, the hub of commerce in Middle Tennessee and the fertile soil allowed the settlers to grow a number of different crops. The people were a different breed from their American cousins on the east coast. They judged a man by his honesty and ability to survive. The Hurts fared well in Tennessee. They were from a long line of survivors.

NOTES

[1]*1810 Census of Virginia. Bedford County.* Microfilm.

[2]*1820 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.* Microfilm.

[3]*1850 Census of Mississippi. Noxubee County.* Microfilm.

[4]*Pensions of the Veterans of the Revolutionary War.* Microfilm.

[5]*1820 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.*

[6]*Maury County, Tennessee, Marriages, 1807-1837,* compiled by Virginia Wood Alexander and Rose Harris Priest. [Privately printed, 1962].

[7]*1820 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.*

[8]Maury County, Tennessee. *Tax Records: Maury County, 1823* (Maury County, TN; Maury County Records). Microfilm.

[9]Maury County, Tennessee. *Maury County Wills* Book D (Maury County, TN; Maury County Records), p. 249.

[10]Maury County, Tennessee. *Tax Records: Maury County, 1823* (Maury County, TN; Maury County Records).

[11]Frank L. Owsley, *Plain Folk of the Old South* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1982), pp. 34-45.

[12]*1840 Census of Alabama.* Microfilm.

[13]Winston County, Mississippi. *Marriage Records of Winston County, Mississippi* Book 2 (Winston County, MS; Winston County Records), p. 364.

[14]Maury County, Tennessee. *Maury County Court Minutes* Book 2 (Maury County, TN: Maury County Records), p. 274.

[15]*Maury County Tennessee Newspaper Abstracts, 1810-1844*, compiled by Jill Garrett [Privately printed, n.d.].

[16]*File of Bird S. Hurt. War of 1812.* Washington, DC: National Archives. Microfilm.

[17]Edythe Rucker Whitley. *Tennessee Genealogical Records -- Davidson County Pioneers* (Tennessee Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1965), pp. 15, 17.

[18]Maury County, Tennessee. *Maury County Deed Abstracts*, Vol. 1 (Maury County, TN; Maury County Records).

[19]*The Maury [County, Tennessee] Genealogists*, Vol. 1.

[20]Marise P. Lightfoot and Evelyn B. Shackelford, *They Passed This Way: Maury County, Tennessee Cemetery Records* ([Privately printed], 1964), pp. C-16, C-17.

[21]*Letter from Mary Hurt* (Columbia, Tennessee), March 28, 1983. In author's private collection.

[22]*Ibid.*

[23]Marise P. Lightfoot and Evelyn B. Shackelford, *They Passed This Way: Maury County, Tennessee Cemetery Records,* pp. C-16, C-17.

[24]*1850 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.* Microfilm.

[25]*The Goodspeed History of Tennessee--Carroll, Henry and Benton Counties.* (Nashville, TN: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1887), p. 813.

[26]*1830 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.* Microfilm.

[27]*Ibid.*

[28]*Ibid.*

[29]*1840 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.* Microfilm.

[30]*1850 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.* Microfilm.

[31]*History of Maury County, Tennessee*, compiled by Maury County Historical Society (Columbia, TN: Maury County Historical Society, 1969), pp. 668-672.

[32]D. P. Robbins, *Century Review of Maury County, Tennessee, 1807-1907* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1980), pp. 15-285.

Chapter 8

William Hurt
--The Eighth Generation--

A westerner at birth, William Hampton Hurt, the eighth generation in my line, died a southerner in the tragic war that divided the United States. He was yet another in a long line of Hurts who left their places of birth to settle land on the frontier.

William Hampton, who was called Billy, was born in 1815 in the gentle, rolling hills of Maury County, Tennessee.[1] His father, James Hurt, Jr., and grandfather, James Hurt, Sr., moved there from Bedford County, Virginia, between 1810 and 1815.[2] They settled with a number of other Hurts near Elk Trace, about eighteen miles south of Columbia, Tennessee.[3]

Billy's mother had died by 1818 when James, Jr., married Christiana Gillispie.[4] The 1820 Census of Tennessee shows Billy had three brothers and two sisters; however, some of the children listed in the census may have been Christiana's by a previous marriage. The census records do not show the names of the children, only their ages and sex.[5]

James Hurt, Jr., lived near three of his cousins, Elisha, Bird and Moses Hurt. Bird and Moses also had sons named William.[6] It's easy to picture the

three Williams hunting and fishing together and helping their fathers work the land.

In 1823, James, Jr., and James, Sr., were still living in Maury County. While cousin Bird Hurt was a wealthy man by Tennessee standards, James Hurt, Jr., only owned 45 acres of land. It's possible James, Jr., and his family helped care for the 300 acres owned by the elderly James, Sr.[7]

The Missing Nineteen Years

Billy Hurt was still living in Maury County in 1827 when his father and Bird Hurt witnessed a will for John McCormack.[8] This is the last record we have of James Hurt, Jr., and his family, in Tennessee. After that, Billy Hurt, who was twelve-years old at the time, disappears from the records until 1846 in Mississippi.

There are several possibilities as to where Billy Hurt was in those missing nineteen years. James, Jr., could have been omitted from the 1830 Tennessee Census. This is unlikely, though, since the Hurts were well established in Maury County. James, Jr., and his father, both could have died before the 1830 Census. If this was the case, Christiana Gillispie Hurt would have been listed as the head of the family, but she is also absent from the census.[9] Another possibility is that James, Jr., and his family moved to another state. If so, the direction would probably have been south into Alabama. Many of the Hurts in Tennessee moved into northern

Alabama between 1820 and 1830.[10] Alabama became a favorite destination for homesteaders during this time because of the availability of land that had been obtained through treaties from the Creek Indians. It would have been easy for a man and his family to lose themselves in the sparsely populated counties of this new state.

Mississippi

The missing years of Billy Hurt's life come to an end on March 10, 1846, when he married Sarah Ellen White. John C. Holmes and Albert C. Brown signed Billy Hurt's marriage certificate as witnesses. The marriage was registered in Winstonville, Winston County.[11] Billy Hurt was thirty-one years old when he married. His enlistment papers twenty years later give us the only physical description we have of him as an adult. He was five feet, eleven inches tall, with blue eyes, dark hair and fair skin.[12]

It's interesting to note that Billy Hurt was not listed in the 1840 census of Mississippi. It's possible he was already in Winston County and either working for another farmer or living on land that belonged to the Choctaws. The Whites and a number of their neighbors moved to Winston from Alabama. Billy Hurt may have known the Whites in Alabama and moved with them to Mississippi.[13]

The Whites

Sarah White, daughter of James and Mary White, was born in Alabama in 1825.[14] Since her marriage to Billy Hurt took place in Winston County, this indicates Billy may have been living in either Winston County or adjacent Noxubee County in 1846. He was probably a neighbor of James White. Billy Hurt was in Mississippi by 1845 if we allow time for his courtship.

James White was born on July 10, 1798, in North Carolina, and died after 1850 in Winston County, Mississippi.[15] James' first wife, Mary Whitehead, was born September 4, 1804, and died December 26, 1841, in Winston County. She is buried in the White Cemetery. Her tombstone reads, "She was a member of the Primitive Baptist Church." James married his second wife, Finetty Glenn, on October 10, 1845. She was born in 1803 and died in 1899. Her tombstone in the White Cemetery is next to the graves James White and Mary White. Sarah White married Billy Hurt not too long after her father remarried. Sarah probably helped care for her younger brothers and sisters until her father took another wife.[16]

Besides Sarah, James White had six other children. They were P. F. White (B. 1832), James (B. 1830), Folis (B. 1832), Elizabeth (B. 1833), William (B. 1834), and Nancy (B. 1837). Nancy, called Nannie,

was living with William Hurt, one of Billy's son, during the 1900 census of Mississippi.[17]

James' father was Sherwood White, a Revolutionary War veteran, who was born in 1759 in Virginia. Sherwood married Martha Nall who died in 1800 in North Carolina. Sherwood moved with his son James to Alabama in 1824 and then on to Mississippi in 1833. Sherwood White died in 1848 and is also buried in White Cemetery. His tombstone is still standing.[18]

Life In The Piney Woods

Billy and Sarah's first child, Mary Jane, was born on October 23, 1847. Their second child, James Leroy, was born on August 24, 1849.[19] The 1850 Census of Mississippi shows William, Sarah and the two children living in Noxubee County. Billy's age was shown as thirty-five and Sarah's as twenty-five. Billy's occupation was listed as farmer. The census is the only official document we have that shows the year Billy was born. It is also the first evidence we have that Billy and Sarah had moved to Noxubee County. In reality, the move probably wasn't that far. Not only were Winston and Noxubee Counties adjacent, but the land Billy would eventually buy was next to the Winston County border and only walking distance from the White homestead.[20]

Billy and Sarah's family continued to grow when Nancy Ellen was born on January 4, 1852, and William Thomas was born on May 24, 1854.[21] The

year his fourth child was born, Billy Hurt bought land in Noxubee County.

On September 25, 1854, Billy bought 79 71/100 acres in Noxubee County from the Federal Land Office in Columbus, Mississippi. This land was part of a huge tract the U. S. Government had obtained in 1830 from the Choctaws in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. Billy was the first non-Indian owner of this land. The acreage was situated on the western edge of Noxubee County, less than a mile from the White's land in Winston County. Billy paid 75 cents an acre for a total of $59.78. The land, covered by pine trees and sandy loam soil was described as *"W1/2 of SE1/4, Section 30, Township 14 North Range 14 East."*[22]

A family story credits Billy Hurt as having first visited Noxubee County when he was a boy. This bit of oral history relates that Billy helped drive a herd of swine from Tennessee to Noxubee for sale. Certain breeds of prized swine were raised in Tennessee and sold for breeding in some of the other southern states. This also ties in with the Billy Hurt's possible lifestyle as a herder.[23]

Billy and Sarah's last two children were Robert Hampton, born May 28, 1857, and Elizabeth Alabama, born in May 1859.[24] Robert Hampton Hurt was my great-grandfather. With his family complete, Billy Hurt settled down to life in the piney woods area of Noxubee County. Most of the people who live in the piney woods area were *"herders."*

They grew what they needed to eat and raised swine and other livestock for cash. The land in that part of the county was not generally suited for growing cotton.[25]

The 1860 Census of Mississippi, taken after the birth of Elizabeth Alabama, shows Billy Hurt's net worth as $750. This was a small amount when compared to the slave-owning, cotton-raising farmers who owned the rich bottom land bordering the Noxubee River and its tributaries. Noxubee County was booming, however, and the herders probably benefited from the rich economy.[26]

Its interesting to note that neither Billy Hurt nor any of his immediate neighbors had slaves, although the slave population of Noxubee County almost equaled the white population. The herders raised swine and livestock which they marked and turned out into the forests to forage for food. Several times a year, the herds were rounded up and driven to market. Much of the livestock in Noxubee ended up in Mobile.[27]

At this point, Billy Hurt must have been pleased with his life. He had a wife, six healthy children and his land. There was probably little to indicate to him that in less than two years the Hurt family's life would be turned upside down.

The Civil War

The people of Noxubee County were, as most Mississippians, caught up in the speculation and turmoil created by the political conflict between the free states of the industrial north and the slave states of the agrarian south. Even though Billy Hurt and his neighbors didn't own slaves, their sentiment rested squarely with their slave-owning neighbors. In the elections of 1860, southern voters stood squarely behind John C. Breckenridge. When he ran a poor third behind Abraham Lincoln, the southern states quickly seceded, one after the other. By February 1, 1861, Mississippi had left the Union. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. The war had begun.

In Mississippi, there was an immediate call for volunteers. Billy Hurt was among the hundreds from Noxubee County who enlisted. The response was so great in that county that the volunteers outnumbered the registered voters.[28] Billy Hurt enlisted in Vicksburg on November 13, 1861, in the Mississippi militia. He probably waited until his crops were harvested before he signed up. His enlistment papers were signed by Captain Aaron B. Hardcastle. Billy Hurt was assigned to I Corp, Company C, 3rd Battalion Mississippi Infantry.[29]

Billy Hurt's battalion was then marched to Tullahoma, Tennessee, where General Albert Sidney

Johnson was gathering an army to challenge General U. S. Grant's invasion of Tennessee. The die was cast for the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, or as the Confederates called it, Shiloh.

Once Johnson has consolidated his forces, about 40,000 men, he advanced toward the Federal position at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. On April 5, 1861, the Confederates had moved within several miles of the Federal position without the knowledge of Grant or his army. While Johnson positioned the Confederate army for an attack, the 3rd Mississippi was sent forward to guard against a surprise attack by the Federals. Billy Hurt, who was now a corporal, moved forward with Company C to a skirmish position in Fraley's Field.

The next morning, before dawn, both armies began to stir. The best account of what happened next comes from Aaron B. Hardcastle, by then a major, who was the 3rd Mississippi's commanding officer:

> *"Sir: On the evening of the 5th, I occupied a post of picket with the body of my battalion a quarter of a mile in front of our brigade (commanded by General S.A.M. Wood), No. 190, 8 flankers on the right and 22 on the left, deployed at intervals of 12 paces. We covered the front of the brigade. An advance party of 7 men, under command of Lieutenant Hammock, were posted 200 yards*

in front of my center. Another party, under the command of Lieutenant McNulty, of 8 men, were posted 100 yards in front of my center; three-quarters were deployed. Indications of the enemy's approach were made known to these officers by singular beats on the drum in the enemy's lines just before dawn.

"About dawn the cavalry vedettes fired three shots, wheeled, and galloped back. Lieutenant Hammock suffered the enemy to approach within 90 yards. Their lines seemed about 350 yards long and to number about 1,000. He fired upon them and joined his battalion with his men. Lieutenant McNulty received the enemy with his fire at about 100 yards, and then joined his battalion with his men, when the vedettes rode back to my main position. At the first alarm my men were in line and all ready. I was on a rise of ground, men kneeling. The enemy opened a heavy fire on us at a distance of about 200 yards, but most of the shots passed over us. We returned the fire immediately and kept it up. Captain Clare, aide to General Wood, came and encouraged us. We fought the enemy an hour or more without giving an inch.

"Our loss in this engagement was: killed, 4 privates; severely wounded, 1 sergeant, 1

corporal, and 8 privates; and slightly wounded, color-sergeant and 9 privates.

"At about 6:30 a.m. I saw the brigade formed in my rear and I fell back. Captain Hume's company, bearing the colors, formed promptly at the command halt. I formed and took position in the brigade line of battle near the right. We advanced, dressing to the right, I charging the first camp of the enemy. I was ahead of my battalion a short distance and lost myself from it by going too far to the left. (During the next several hours, Major Hardcastle fought with the 16th Alabama Regiment before rejoining the 3rd Mississippi.) The battalion had moved a little to the right towards an open field and were there occupied firing on the enemy running across the field. When I rejoined them they were marching forward inline against the enemy on a charged front. We halted on the right of our brigade and received a heavy fire from the enemy. We replied briskly and continued firing for some time. The enemy were driven off by a combined movement from our left.

"Our loss was: Killed, Captain Hughes, of Company D, while exposed in front of his company following the colors; Corporal Reeves, of Company E, color-bearer, and 4 privates. Severely wounded, 2 sergeants and

2 privates; and slightly wounded, 1 acting assistant surgeon, Lieutenant Reeves, of Company C; 1 sergeant, 1 corporal and 10 privates.

"My ammunition gave out, and I was detained, supplying myself from the enemy's camp, by Captain Pickett's directions. I ordered my men to wipe out their guns.....

"At 5 p.m. Adjutant McClung detailed me to guard the prisoners. We marched with them to the field in front of White House hospital and encamped, exposed to the rain all night.

"Monday morning, the 7th instant, I started back to the battlefield about 8 o'clock, by orders of Colonel McKoin. On the way we took different roads, and I did not see again until evening McKoin's and Harris' regiments, with whom I started. My men were much exhausted and worn-out. They marched very slowly. On the way a Louisiana company commanded by a lieutenant and a few others joined me. I approached a deserted camp of the enemy and heard firing toward the left and in front. I flanked to the left, and moved forward to another field in front of, and to the right of, a burning house. I met many scattered soldiers falling back, who said to me, 'You are too late.' The

Louisianians and a few of my men fell back with them.

"I had numbered about 110 men in the morning; I now had about 70 or a 100. With these I posted myself behind the logs and trees on the edge of the field. The enemy was seen on the opposite side with his battery. A terrible fire opened upon us of canister and musketry. My men silenced their battery and drove back their infantry.

"Posted behind the trees and logs we saw the enemy formed within 40 yards of us in line and in close order. I held my fire, believing them friends. At the command, 'Don't shoot,' the enemy deceived themselves and unfurled their flag. We poured into them a deadly fire. They replied fiercely and retired.

"Our loss here was Capt. R. H. McNair, of Company E, who stood gallantly exposed, cheering his men to stand bravely and fire cooly (severely wounded and since died) and 2 privates severely wounded, and 1 sergeant and 3 privates slightly wounded. Afterwards I heard no firing on my right or left. I knew the enemy was present near both flanks. I saw the Confederates scattered and retiring, and I moved back in good order, passing around the field.

When I had retired a few hundred yards I came upon Colonel Allen, who had formed some 500 or 600 stragglers into a body. I formed on his left, and we took post farther to the rear, behind the battalion, to support it. We remained here an hour, until the colonel got orders to retire. We took up the line of march in order and quit the field.

"In repulsing the enemy from their battery we gave an opportune check to his advance upon our retiring skirmishers. Throughout this action, on both days, the officers and soldiers of my battalion behaved bravely. No instance of distrust or dismay met my observation.

A. B. Hardcastle
Major, Commanding
Third Mississippi Battalion"[30]

Brigadier General S. A. M. Woods, Major Hardcastle's immediate superior, ended his report of the battle with these words, *"The officers and men of my brigade fought well. Major Hardcastle's battalion fired the first shot in our army on the enemy, and we only left the field at the close of Monday's fight."*

With that, the Battle of Shiloh was over. The two armies were exhausted. Both sides suffered thousands of casualties in what many historians

describe as one of the bloodiest battles of the war. More than half of the 3rd Mississippi's 280 men were killed or wounded. One of the wounded was Billy Hurt. We do know his injury resulted from rifle fire since the slug that wounded him is in the possession of Thomas Atha Hurt, a great-grandson.[31] Billy Hurt's name is not mentioned in Hardcastle's report, but several references are made to casualties involving corporals.

The Confederate army, tired and wounded, began to withdraw toward Corinth, Mississippi. Many of the wounded were loaded aboard wagons and carried away, their wounds untreated. Hundreds of Confederates would die from their wounds on the way to Corinth. Hundreds more would die at Corinth because of inadequate medical care.

After the Confederate Army regrouped at Corinth, the lack of doctors and medical supplies resulted in many wounded Confederates being moved to other towns. Billy Hurt was among those sent to Macon, in Noxubee County, where a hospital had been set up in a Baptist Church. He was attended by his oldest son, James, who helped carry water to the makeshift hospital for the wounded soldiers.[32] After clinging to life for fifty-one days following the Battle of Shiloh, Billy Hurt died on May 28, 1862.[33]

Billy Hurt was buried in the White Cemetery near his home in Noxubee County alongside James White, Sherwood White and others.[34]

As a young boy in Tennessee, Billy Hurt had probably dreamed of owning his own land and being his own master. He had fought alongside his neighbors and friends, like his Grandfather James, to defend a way of life he believed in. With his death, his family was left to fend for itself.

Sarah White Hurt was still alive on October 29, 1878, when she sold the family land to Larkin Higginbothom. Although Billy Hurt had bought 79 71/100 acres in 1854, Sarah sold 120 acres to Higginbothom. Sometime in the preceding 24 years, either Billy Hurt or his wife had added another 40 acres to the estate. The deed listed not only Sarah Hurt, but the children and some spouses. Those shown on the deed were Sarah Hurt; Buck and Mary Hurt Eaves; James L. Hurt; Lee and Ellen Hurt Eaves; Thomas Hurt; R. Hampton Hurt; and Andrew and Lizzie Hurt Schooler.[35]

Sarah Ellen Hurt died the next year, in 1879. She was buried in the White Cemetery next to her husband.[36]

Children of Billy and Sarah Hurt

Billy and Sarah Hurt had six children. These children had a total of 46 children, more than 200 grandchildren, and the list grows. Many of these Hurts are buried in Winston and Noxubee Counties

in Mississippi and many others are buried in Texas Cemeteries, including Lee Cemetery in Seagoville, Texas. A number of Billy Hurt's descendents still live in Winston and Noxubee Counties. The children of Billy and Sarah Hurt were:

Mary Jane Hurt (October 23, 1847--September 23, 1884) married James Buckner Eaves on November 18, 1867. They had two children, Cyrus Nimrod and James Clinton. James, or Buck, as he was called, was born on August 12, 1847 and died on August 20, 1936. He and Mary Jane are buried in the Eaves Family Cemetery in Winston County, Mississippi. Five infants are buried alongside them. Buck was still a teenager when his Confederate unit surrendered in Georgia near the end of the war. After Mary Jane died, Buck married a Hemphill on November 12, 1884. They had seven children.[37]

James Leroy Hurt (August 24, 1849--February 10, 1947) married Margaret Rogers on April 1, 1869. Margaret, the daughter of Martha Trotman and Armstead Rogers, was born on December 17, 1849, and died on December 20, 1924. They had nine children: Martha Ella (January 8, 1870--August 14, 1915) who married Joseph

E. Sullivan on December 20, 1888; William A. (April 14, 1872-- ?); Alpha Annie (September 23, 1873-- ?); Elisha Thomas (September 14, 1875--1947) who married Martha B. Flake (1882--1950); Sarah Emma (March 15, 1878--January 23, 1963) who married William Absalam Sullivan on November 17, 1897; John Henry (June 26, 1883--July 28, 1965) who married Roxie Lee Manor Chatham on April 1, 1902. When Roxie died, John Henry married Sally Lupo and then later, Nora Haggard; Benjamin Clinton (March 7, 1886--April 22, 1972) who on May 17, 1914 married Amanda Pearl Cockrell (March 3, 1893--October 16, 1972); James Carrol (March 8, 1888--December 23, 1962) who on November 22, 1922 married Willie Sullivan (March 2, 1892--December 5, 1977); and Hampton Lee (July 25, 1891--) who on June 12, 1910, married Mabel Wilson (April 11, 1896--July 8, 1980).[38]

Nancy Ellen (January 4, 1852--June 5, 1897) married Leroy Nanthaniel Eaves on November 2, 1873. They had six children: Hester (born July 1880), Laura (born January 1883), Bob (born December 1887), Martha (born May 1889), Roxie and Lizzie.[39]

William Thomas (May 24, 1854--1950) married Jane Haggard in December 1874. They had ten children: William Jackson (1876--1946); Abbie (born 1880); Dolphus (born 1882); Viola (born 1884); Ida (born 1887); Alvin (born 1889); Ella (born 1891); Lola (born 1893); Lena (born 1895); and Herma (born 1898). In 1900, Nannie White, an aunt, was also living with the family. Nannie was Nancy White, born 1837. She was Sarah White Hurt's sister.[40]

Robert Hampton (May 28, 1857--November 3, 1905) was my great-grandfather. He married Alice Augusta Taylor (June 5, 1857--August 13, 1897) and they had seven children. He remarried after her death and had two more children in that marriage.[41] See Chapter 9 for his story.

Elizabeth Alabama (September 1859--about 1950) was the youngest child of Billy and Sarah Hurt. She married John Schooler on July 16, 1877. They had eight children: Albert (born 1880); Adrian (born 1896); Daisy (born 1887); Carrie (born 1889); Lois (born 1893); Roger (born 1891); Earl (born 1885); and Benberry, who was born after 1900.[42]

Winston County

Winston County was the home of Sarah White Hurt, wife of Billy Hurt. It became a county in December 23, 1833. It was part of the land acquisition in 1830 from the Choctaws by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. One of the early settlers was James White, father of Sarah White.[43] Billy Hurt's land in Noxubee County was within walking distance of the White's land in Winston County. When Billy and Sarah married, their marriage papers were filed in Winstonville, Winston County. In later years, several of Billy and Sarah's children would take up residence in Winston County.[44]

Noxubee County

Noxubee County was established the same time as Winston County. Its name was taken from an Indian word meaning "stinking water." Early settlers included J. L. Higginbothom and H. L. Jarnagin, who were both neighbors of Billy Hurt.[45]

The early settlers, including Billy Hurt, lived on the western edge of the county.[46] The light, sandy soil was best suited for growing fruits and vegetables. The forests that covered much of that part of the county was ideal for raising livestock and swine. In fact, Noxubee County was noted for cattle and hogs. The 1860 Agriculture Census shows Noxubee County among the most productive

counties in Mississippi in producing livestock, corn, sweet potatoes, barley and honey.[47]

Billy Hurt's land was situated several miles from the site of the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit. The treaty site was about six miles from the town of Mashulaville, in Noxubee County. Many of Billy Hurt's neighbors had come from Alabama to settle on the new land in Mississippi. One of the main appeals of the land in the western part of the county was the availability of good water and enough space so a man could stretch his legs.[48]

None of Billy Hurt's neighbors owned slaves.[49] They belonged to that class of southern whites that Frank Owsley called "plain folks." Nearly all of these people, including Billy Hurt and his neighbors, practiced an economy of grazing and farming. The hogs, cattle and grain raised by these farmers and herders supplied a large part of the food bought by the plantations. The agriculture production of the plain folks was so high that they not only fed themselves and the townspeople, but also managed to drive large herds of cattle and swine to Mobile where they were slaughtered and shipped to Eastern markets.[50]

In 1840, John F. H. Claiborne, a Natchez newspaperman, traveled through the piney woods of Mississippi similar to those inhabited by Billy Hurt and his neighbors. He wrote, *"Much of the country is covered exclusively with the long leaf pine; not broken, but rolling like the waves in the middle of*

the great ocean. The grass grows three feet high and hill and valley are studded all over with flowers of every hue....Thousands of cattle are grazed here for market."[51]

"The people are for the most part pastoral, their herds furnishing their chief revenue. The cattle are permitted to run in the range or forest, subsisting in the summer on the luxuriant grass with which the teeming earth is covered, and in winter on green rushes or reeds, a tender species of cane that grows in the brakes or thickets in every swamp, hollow and ravine."[52]

Most of the people in Noxubee County lived plain, simple lives. The land provided them everything they needed. They sold their surplus food and livestock for money to buy the few things they couldn't grow. Billy Hurt slipped into this comfortable life and by 1860, had accumulated a net worth of $750. It was not a fortune, but it was enough for "a rainy day," as the plain folks might have said.[53] These people formed the backbone of the Mississippi economy. When the Civil War began, they enlisted in mass and were regarded as some of the finest soldiers in the Confederacy. More than half of these men would die of wounds or illness. Later, many of the children of these deceased veterans, their lives ripped apart by the war, would leave Mississippi for what they thought was a better life further west. Robert Hampton Hurt went to Texas.[54] It would be many years before the

descendents of Robert Hampton would return.to Mississippi.

NOTES

1 *1850 Census of Mississippi. Noxubee County.* In *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family* (Seagoville, TX: [Privately printed, 1989]), p. 10, the author, R. L. Glenn, states that the William Hurt of my line was born to Floyd Hurt in Davidson County,Tennessee. Floyd Hurt had a son named William S. Hurt, who was the approximate age of William Hampton Hurt. A glance at the Mississippi, Tennessee and Alabama Censuses for 1840, 1850 and 1860 shows a number of William Hurts. It easy to see why researchers confuse the various Williams. My research took a lucky turn after R. L. Glenn published his book. I happened across information in the family Bible of James Leroy Hurt, who was the son of William Hampton Hurt. The Bible, in the possession of Thomas Atha Hurt of Florence, Alabama, identifies the mysterious William as William Hampton, not William S. In fact, Alabama records show William S. Hurt, son of Floyd Hurt, married and died in Alabama. Another connection between William Hampton Hurt with the Hurts in Maury County, Tennessee, comes from the interesting name Hampton. Numerous Hurts in Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma have this name

today. William Hurt, son of Bird Hurt of Maury County, had a son named Robert Hampton Hurt. This is the same name as my great-grandfather. I believe the name Hampton may have been the maiden name of the wife of either James, Jr. (seventh generation) or James, Sr., (sixth generation). When Bird and the two James left Bedford County, Virginia, for Tennessee, they left behind a neighbor named Hampton. One of them may have married Mr. Hampton's daughter. The question is open for debate.

2 *1810 Census of Virginia. Bedford County.*

3 *1820 Tennessee Census. Maury County.*

4 (see marriage of James and Christiani)

5 *1820 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.*

6 Letter from Mary Hurt, Columbia, Tennessee; March 28, 1983.

7 Maury County, Tennessee. *Maury County Tax Records*, 1823.

8 Maury County, Tennessee. *Maury County Wills* Book D (Maury County, TN: Maury County Records).

9 *1830 Census of Tennessee. Maury County.*

10 *1830 Census of Alabama.*

11 Winston County, Mississippi, *Marriage Records of Winston County, Mississippi*, Book 2 (Winston County, MS: Winston County Records), page 364.

12 Confederate enlistment papers.

13 *1840 Mississippi census. Noxubee County.*

14 *1850 Mississippi. Noxubee County.*

15 *Census of Chatham County, North Carolina*, 1800.

16 Visit by the author to White Cemetery, Noxubee County, Mississippi. June 3, 1985.

17 *1900 Census of Mississippi. Winston County.*

18 R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*, p. 31

19 Family Bible of James Leroy and Margaret Hurt, in possession of Thomas Atha Hurt, Florence, Alabama.

20 *1850 Census of Mississippi, Noxubee County.*

21 Family Bible of James Leroy and Margaret Hurt.

22Federal Land Certificate 36303. (Jackson, MS: Mississippi State Archives)

23 Conversation with Gilbert Hurt, grandson of James Leroy Hurt. Noxubee County, MS. June 3, 1985.

[24] R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*, p. 11

[25] 1850 Agricultural Records of Mississippi.

[26] 1860 Mississippi Census.

[27] *Ibid.*

[28] Enlistment Papers of William Hurt, *Confederate Militia Records*, 3rd Battalion Mississippi Infantry, (Jackson, Mississippi: Mississippi State Archives).

[29] Department of War. United States Government. *War of the Rebellion*, Vol. 7 (Series I; Washington, DC: GPO, n.d.), pages 602--604.

[30] *Ibid.*

[31] Interview with Gilbert Hurt, grandson of James LeRoy Hurt. Noxubee County, MS, June 3, 1985.

[32] *Ibid.*

[33] Enlistment Papers of William Hurt, *op. cit.*

[34] Interview with Gilbert Hurt, grandson of James LeRoy Hurt. Noxubee County, MS, June 3, 1985. Gilbert Hurt, remembers cleaning the grave site as a young boy under the direction of James Hurt.

[35] Chancery Clerk's Office, *Noxubee County Deed Book* 9 (Noxubee County, MS: Noxubee County Records), pp. 589-590.

[36] Family Bible of James Leroy and Margaret Hurt, in possession of Thomas Atha Hurt, Florence, Alabama.

[37] *Winston County and Its People. A collection of Family Histories* compiled by Nancy Randolph Parkes. Written and Edited by Louis Taunton and Nancy R. Parkes. (Louisville, Ms.: Winston County Genealogical and Historical Society, 1980), p. 198.

[38] Family records collected at Hurt Reunion, Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Winston County, Mississippi, June 3, 1990. 1900 census of Mississippi, Family Bible and Cemetery Markers.

[39] Family records collected at Hurt Reunion, Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Winston County, Mississippi, June 3, 1990. 1900 census of Mississippi, Family Bible and Cemetery Markers.

[40] Family records collected at Hurt Reunion, Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Winston County, Mississippi, June 3, 1990. 1900 census of Mississippi, Family Bible and Cemetery Markers.

[41] R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*, p. 11.

[42] Family records collected at Hurt Reunion, Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Winston County, Mississippi, June 3, 1990. 1900 census of Mississippi, Family Bible and Cemetery Markers.

[43] *Mississippi*, edited by Dunbar Rowland, Vol. 2 (Atlanta, GA: Southern Historical Publications Association, 1907), pp. 986-987.

[44] Winston County, Mississippi, *Marriage Records of Winston County, Mississippi*, Book 2, p. 364.

[45] *Mississippi*, edited by Dunbar Rowland, Vol. 2, pp. 346-347.

[46] *1860 Census of Mississippi. Noxubee County.*

[47] Department of Agriculture. United States Government. *1860 Agriculture Census of the United States. Noxubee County, Mississippi.* (Washington, DC: GPO) Microfilm.

[48] Personnel observations by author. Noxubee County, Mississippi. June 3, 1990.

[49] *1860 Census of Mississippi. Noxubee County.* Microfilm.

[50] Frank Owsley, *Plain Folk of the Old South,* pp. 134-135.

[51] *Ibid.*, p. 37.

[52] *Ibid.*, p. 38.

[53] *1860 Census of Mississippi. Noxubee County.*

[54] *Ibid.*, p. 138.

Chapter 9

Robert Hampton Hurt
--The Ninth Generation--

Robert Hampton Hurt, my great-grandfather, was born on May 28, 1857, in Noxubee County, Mississippi. He was the fifth child of William Hampton (Billy) and Sarah Ellen White Hurt.[1] Descendents of Robert Hampton Hurt know little of him and existing records provide few clues as to his personality and lifestyle. Like his father before him, Robert Hampton died before his fiftieth birthday.[2] He left nine children and his second wife. His premature death once again robbed the Hurt family of the valuable oral history that is usually passed on from parent to child.

The fact that Robert Hampton passed on little family history to his children is understandable though since his father, William Hampton, died a month before Robert Hampton's fifth birthday.[3] Even the descendents of James Leroy Hurt, Robert Hampton's oldest brother, know little family history.[4] But, if the Hurts were like most families, they were not concerned about family history until the one with the answers died.

Robert Hampton Hurt was born on May 28, 1857, in Noxubee County, Mississippi. He was the

fifth child of Billy and Sarah Hurt.[5] When Robert was four-years old, Billy Hurt, his father, marched off to war with most of the other able bodied men of Noxubee County. Their idea was to give the Yankees a "good lickin" and return home as heroes and defenders of the Southern way of life. These ideas died at the Battle of Shiloh, as did many of the young men of Noxubee County. Billy was wounded and eventually transported back to a Confederate hospital in Macon, the county seat of Noxubee County. On April 28, 1862, Billy died from his wounds.[6]

The War

After the death of William Hampton Hurt, the following years were difficult for Sarah Hurt and her six children. Although she owned the land they lived on, many of the children were too young to do the hard labor needed to grow crops and tend the livestock. Sarah had help from her family, the Whites, who lived nearby, and neighbors. The role of "man of the family" fell to James Leroy who carried on his father's work in the field. But, the Hurt's situation was not unique. Many other Noxubee County families lost fathers and sons early on in the war. Many others straggled home crippled or with wounds.[7]

Still, Noxubee County escaped many of the ravages of war suffered by other areas in Mississippi and the South. Although Union troops made

appearances in several adjacent counties during the war, Noxubee was spared. The only Union intrusion in the county came when Grierson's raiders rode through the western part of the county, stopping long enough at Summerville to eat the girls' dinner at Gathright's school. The farms and plantations continued to raise their crops, feed their families and still have foodstuff left over to feed the hungry Confederate soldiers. In 1865, with the Union forces in control of Western and Northern Mississippi, Governor Clarke and the state legislators were chased from the state capitol in Jackson. They relocated in Macon, the county seat of Noxubee. They held their sessions in the Calhoun Institute in relative safety.[8]

The Children Marry

By 1874, Mary Jane, James Leroy, Nancy Ellen and William Thomas had married.[7] Robert Hampton, who was seventeen at the time, was still at home and probably responsible for caring for his mother and Elizabeth Alabama, who was fifteen. On December 30, 1876, Robert Hampton married Alice Augusta Taylor.[9] Since the Taylors and Hurts were neighbors, Robert and Alice (called Griss and Gussie) probably knew each other as children.

James Issac, the first child of Robert Hampton and Alice Augusta Taylor Hurt was born on November 9, 1877, in Winston County, Mississippi. Records don't show when Robert Hampton left

Noxubee County, but he and his family could have moved half a mile west of Billy Hurt's homestead and been in Winston County. Several of Robert Hampton's brothers and sisters were already living in Winston County at this time. On September 18, 1879, a second son, William Joseph, was also born in Winston County.[10]

Selling the Homestead

A month later, on October 29, 1878, Sarah White Hurt sold the Hurt homestead to James Larkin Higginbothom. The children and their spouses signed the deed of sale along with Sarah.[11] The land may have been sold at this time because Sarah White Hurt was ill. In any event, Sarah died on January 14, 1879, shortly after the sale. The children were now free to strike out on their own.[12]

The last of Robert Hampton's and Alice August's children to be born in Mississippi was Thomas Calvin. He was born on July 9, 1881, in Winston County.[13]

On To Texas

The couple's fourth son, John Hampton Hurt, my grandfather, was born on September 5, 1883, in Seagoville, Texas.[14] Sometime between the births of Thomas Calvin and John Hampton, the genetic wanderlust of the Hurts seized Robert Hampton and he left the piney woods of Mississippi for Texas. More research may show that Robert Hampton and

his family left Winston County with a group of friends determined to escape the ruined economy caused by the war and Reconstruction.

After the Hurts were settled in Texas and John Hampton was born, other children followed. Alice Edna was born on October 3, 1885, and Benjamin Franklin was born on January 3, 1887. Ada Pearl,the last child of Robert Hampton and Alice Augusta, was born on May 16, 1891.[15] Robert and Alice were both twenty-nine years old at the time.[16]

For the next ten years, Robert Hampton eaked out a living in the black dirt of Dallas County. There are no records showing he owned land. According to oral family history, Robert Hampton may have been better at enjoying life than accumulating a nest egg.[17]

In addition to their large family, Robert Hampton and Alice Augusta also had the responsibility of caring for the elderly Margaret Stinston Taylor, Alice's mother who had come with them from Mississippi. The family was saddened when Margaret died in 1895. She was buried in Texas soil at Lee Cemetary in Seagoville.[18]

Alice Augusta Dies

Two years later, on August 13, 1897, the Hurt family was again in mourning when Alice Augusta died. She may have died giving birth. If so, the infant also failed to survive. Alice Augusta Taylor Hurt, forty-years old when she died, was buried

near her mother in Lee Cemetary. James, her oldest son, was twenty. Ada, the youngest child, was six.[19]

Robert Hampton carried on alone with a number of children still at home. His financial situation was dismal. In 1891, the Dallas County Tax Rolls show him owning a carriage valued at $20; two mules worth $75; four cows worth $20 and tools and machinery worth $5 for a total worth of $120. His state and county taxes totaled $2.94.[20] In 1892, Robert Hampton's fortunes continue to slip. He still had his carriage and three mules, but had lost three cows. His total worth was $90 and he paid a total of $2.47 in state and county taxes.[21] Times were hard for the Hurts.

The next mention we find of Robert Hampton Hurt is the 1900 Census of Texas. The census lists Robert Hampton as a widower, 42-years old and living near Seagoville. John, 17; Edna, 15; Ben, 13; and Ada, 9; were still living at home. The other children were either married or living on their own.[22] It may have been at this time that Robert Hampton decided single parenthood was not for him.

A Second Wife

Between 1900 and the early part of 1902, Robert Hampton married his second wife. The lucky woman was Ester Eleanor Mosely, who was born in 1866. She had previously been married to a man named Crouch and had one or more children from

that marriage. On October 10, 1902, Robert Leroy, a son, was born in Waxahatchie, Texas, to Robert Hampton and Ester. Since it appears the Hurts were living in Waxahatchie when Robert Leroy was born, Ester may have owned land there from her first marriage. A second son, Aubrey (Jack), was born abut 1904.[23]

Robert Hampton Hurt Dies

Just when it seemed things were looking up, Robert Hampton died on November 3, 1905, from an illness. He was buried in Lee Cemetary. Robert Hampton was 48 years old when he died.[24] He lived a year long than his father, William Hampton Hurt. Like his father, Robert Hampton left behind a wife, several young children and expectations of a better life in a new land. After the death of her husband, Ester Hurt married a Mr. Giles and moved to Plainview, Texas. She died there in 1932.[25]

Alice Augusta's Children

James Issac Hurt (November 9, 1877--July 24, 1955) was the firstborn of Robert Hampton and Alice Augusta. He married Lillie M. Couch (November 9, 1885--September 25, 1964). They had six children: Lena, Clara, Tommie, Elmer, Geneva and Mary.[26]

William Joseph Hurt (September 18, 1879--July 20, 1958) married Ouida Harring (April 30, 1896--October 14, 1977). They had seven children: Isabel,

Albert, Evelyn, Charles, Margaret, J. W., and James.[27]

Thomas Calvin Hurt (July 9, 1881--January 25, 1949) married Mattie Pearl Haines (--April 15, 1968). They had nine children: Alice, Kenith, Carrol, Neola, Thomas, James, Lillian, Lenora and Arnita.[28]

John Hampton Hurt (September 5, 1883--February May, 1953) was my grandfather. He married Naomi Roberts and they had eight children. See Chapter 10.[29]

Alice Edna Hurt (October 3, 1885--June 18, 1964) married Wyley Otis (Coot) Williamson (May 2, 1878--September 15, 1954). They had fifteen children: Floyd, Dilliard, Susie Mae, Effie Ester, Ada Ester, Birtie Ruth, Valtie Lydia, Wiley Otis, Sallie Odessa, Thelma Wyley, Gladys Mozelle, Jack Aubry, Nina Louise, Tennie Enez, Nolta Marie and Billie Joe.[30]

Ada Pearl Hurt (May 16, 1891--March 26, 1980) married Joe Daniel Petty . They had seven children: Callie Claudine, Joseph Franklin, Adabell Petty, Julia Rhea, Wanda Jo, Jack Hurt and Bennie Roy.[31]

Benjamin Franklin Hurt (January 3, 1887--January 7, 1893) married Mollie Lee Boynton (July 31, 1903--August 9, 1968). They had one daughter, Billie Frank.[32]

Ester Mosely's Children

Robert Leroy Hurt (October 10, 1902--August 9, 1983) was the first son of Robert Hampton Hurt and Ester Eleanor Mosely. Robert Leroy married Bertha Clementine Scarberry (September 10, 1905--May 1, 1989), the daughter of General Silvanus Scarberry of Glascow, Kentucky, and Myrtle Bell Skaggs, of Ellis County, Texas. Robert and Bertha had seven children: Leo Hampton (Hank), born October 6, 1932, who married Ann Cowart; Aubrey Lee, born January 25, 1925, who married Irene Gearr; Lena Bell, born February 13, 1927, who married Dwyne Woodall; Erma Aline, born February 22, 1929, who married Doyle Carroll; Bobby Gean, born November 13, 1931, who married Marlene Imhoff; Perry Allen, born January 16, 1935; and Bertha Joan, born July 20, 1941.[33]

Aubrey (Jack) Hurt (about 1904--1988) was the second son of Robert Hampton Hurt and Ester Eleanor Mosely. He married and had three daughters and one son.[34]

The Taylors

Alice Augusta Taylor was the daughter of Isaac and Margaret Stinson Taylor. Isaac Taylor was born in 1824 in Surry County, North Carolina. He married Margaret Stinson on February 20, 1854, in Gordon County, Georgia. Isaac and Margaret later moved to Winston County, Mississippi, with some members

of the Stinson family. Isaac died about 1865 and was buried in the Murphy Creek Cemetary in Winston County. Besides Alice Augusta, Isaac and Margaret had four other children: Mary Taylor (born December 1, 1854) who married Reubin Craig and later Ben Roberts; Salley Taylor (born December 20, 1855) who married John Cutts; Fillis Taylor (born 1859) who married Dell Hollis; and Louis Taylor (born 1864) who never married. Margaret Stinson Taylor died in 1895 in Seagoville, Texas. She is buried in Lee Cemetary.[35]

Isaac's father was Thomas Taylor, who was born in 1804 in Surrey County, North Carolina. His wife's name was Penelope. In 1845, Thomas left Surrey County for Gordon County, Georgia, and soon afterwards for Winston County, Mississippi, where he died sometime after 1860. He and Penelope had eight children: Isaac Taylor; Thomas Taylor (born 1822); Elizabeth Taylor (born 1831); Allan Taylor (born 1835); Jane Taylor (born 1840); C. Taylor (born 1852); and J. H. Taylor (born 1860).[36]

The Stinsons

The Hurts lay claim to Irish blood through the family of Margaret Stinson Taylor, the mother of Alice Augusta Taylor. Margaret Stinson was the daughter of Joseph and Nancy Westbrook Stinson. Joseph was born in 1795 in Fish Creek, Chester County, South Carolina. After he married Nancy Westbrook in 1827, they bought land near Nancy's

father, Jacob Westbrook, in Rutherford County, North Carolina. In 1837, the Stinsons moved to Chester County, North Carolina, and then to Gordon County, Georgia in 1847. In 1850, they moved to Winston County, Mississippi. Joseph Stinson died there about 1874. Joseph and Nancy had six children: Nathan Stinson (born 1828); Elizabeth Stinson (born 1830); Nancy Stinson (born 1832); Mary Stinson (born 1836); and Margaret Stinson, all of whom were all born in Rutherford County. Martha Stinson (born 1840) was born in Chester County, South Carolina.[37]

Joseph's father was Andrew Stinson. He was born in Clogh, Ireland, and came to this country in 1795 along with thousands of other Irish. He first settled in Pennsylvania and then migrated to the Carolinas. He ended up in Fish Creek, Chester County, South Carolina. Andrew and his wife had four children: Andrew Stinson, Elizabeth Stinson, Abigail Stinson and Joseph Stinson.[38]

Notes

[1]*1860 Census of Mississippi. Noxubee County.* Microfilm

[2]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*. (Seagoville, TX: [Privately printed, 1989), p. 11.

[3]*1860 Census of Mississippi. Noxubee County.* Microfilm

[4]Information collected at Hurt Family Reunion, Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Winston County Mississippi. June 3, 1990.

[5]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 11.

[6]Mississippi State Militia Records of William Hurt. (Jackson, MS: Mississippi State Archives) Microfilm.

[7]Frank L. Owsley, *Plain Folk of the Old South* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1982), p. 136-137.

[8]John Tyson, *Historical Notes of Noxubee County, Mississippi, 1855-1927* (Macon, MS: Macon Beacon [Copied in book form by W. S. Tyson], 1928), p. 44-45.

[9] Marriage Records of Winston County, MS. Vol. 6, p. 68.

[10]Information collected at the Hurt Family Reunion, Ellison Ridge Baptist Church, Winston County, Mississippi. June 3, 1990.

[11]Noxubee County, Mississippi. *Chancery Court Deed Book* (Noxubee County, M: Noxubee County Records), pp. 599-600.

[12]Family Bible of James Leroy and Margaret Hurt in posession of Thomas Atha Hurt, Florence, Alabama.

[13]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 15.

[14]Conversation with Vernon Hurt, Houston, TX. July 7, 1990.

[15]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* pp. 20--23.

[16]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 26.

[17]Conversation with R. L. Glenn, Seagoville, TX. November 24, 1989.

[18]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 33.

[19] R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 34.

[20]Dallas County, Texas. *1891 Tax Rolls--Dallas County. Precinct 4* (Dallas County, TX; Dallas County Records), p. 196, number 21. Microfilm.

[21]Dallas County, Texas. *1892 Tax Rolls--Dallas County. Precinct 4* (Dallas County, TX; Dallas County Records), p. 183, number 25. Microfilm.

[22]State of Texas. *Census of 1900. Dallas County.* (Austin and Dallas, TX; State/County Records). Microfilm.

[23]Conversation with Leo Hampton (Hank) Hurt. Waco, Texas. July 8, 1990.

[24]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 11.

[25]Conversation with Leo Hampton (Hank) Hurt. Waco, Texas. July 8, 1990.

[26]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 13.

[27]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 14.

[28]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 15.

[29]Conversation with Vernon Hurt, Houston, TX. July 7, 1990.

[30]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 20.

[31]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 23.

[32]*Ibid.*

[33]Conversation with Leo Hampton (Hank) Hurt, Waco, TX. July 8, 1990.

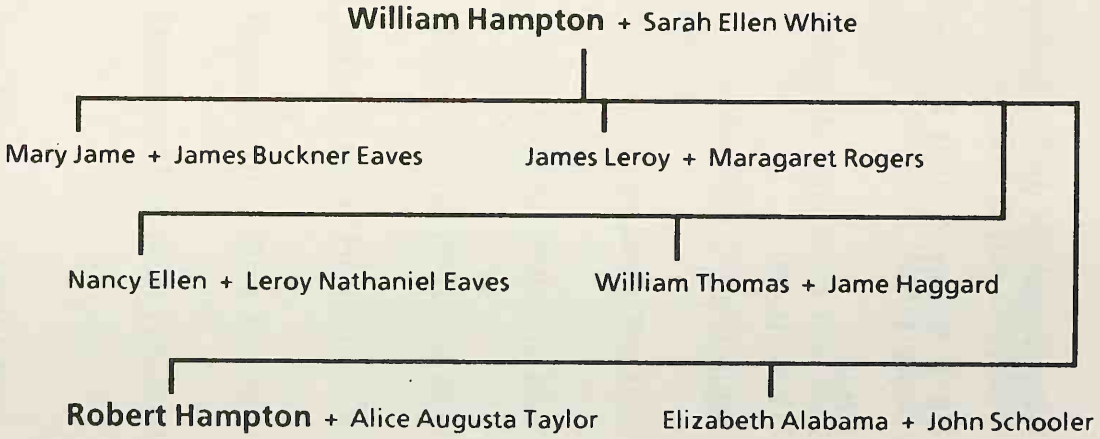
[34]Conversation with Leo Hampton (Hank) Hurt, Waco, TX. July 8, 1990.

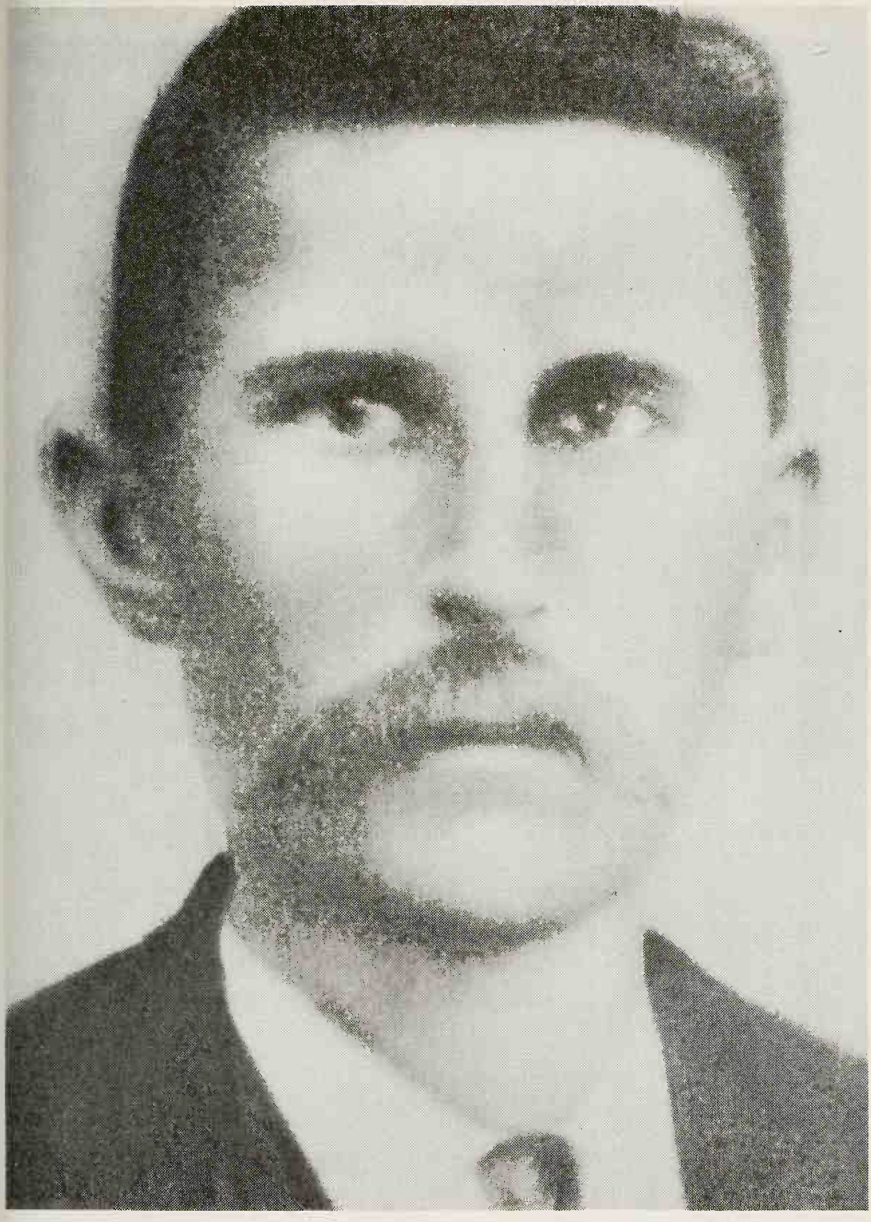
[35]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family,* p. 34.

[36]*Ibid.*

[37]*Ibid.*, p, 33.

[38]*Ibid.*


William Hampton + Sarah Ellen White
Mary Jame + James Buckner Eaves
James Leroy + Maragaret Rogers
Nancy Ellen + Leroy Nathaniel Eaves
William Thomas + Jame Haggard
Robert Hampton + Alice Augusta Taylor
Elizabeth Alabama + John Schooler



Robert Hampton Hurt (1857-1862)

John Hampton and Naomi Roberts Hurt

Chapter 10

John Hampton Hurt
--The Tenth Generation--

John Hampton Hurt, my grandfather, was born September 5, 1883, in Dallas County near Seagoville, Texas.[1] He was the fourth child, and the first to be born in Texas, of Robert Hampton and Alice Augusta Taylor Hurt.[2]

Robert Hampton Hurt was a farmer. He left Mississippi, as did many others, to find his fortune in Texas. His dream of a better life was never realized. He became just another transplanted farmer trying to survive. By 1891, when John Hampton was eight-years old, his father had two mules, four cows and few other resources.[3] This was also the year Ada Pearl, the seventh child of Robert Hampton and Alice Augusta, was born.[4] Margaret Stinson Taylor, Alice Augusta's mother, was also living with the Hurts at this time. With nine mouths to feed and only two mules to help scratch out a living in the tough Texas soil, Robert Hampton was always just a step ahead of the tax collector. The next year, Robert Hampton had added a mule, but lost three cows. The remaining cow was probably hard pressed to meet the needs of the large family.[5]

In 1895, the family was saddened when Margaret Stinson Taylor died. She was buried at Lee Cemetery.[6] John Hampton never spoke of his grandmother Taylor to his children, so we know little of her life.[7] Two years later, the family suffered another tragedy when on August 13, 1897, Alice Augusta died, possibly during childbirth.[8] The older children now had to work even harder, not only to keep bread on the table, but also to take care of the younger children.

Robert Hampton Remarries

The next few years of my grandfather's life are somewhat obscure. He was still living at home in 1900 when the census takers recorded his name under the household of Robert Hampton Hurt. John Hampton Hurt was seventeen at the time.[9]

A short time after the census, Robert Hampton Hurt took his second wife, Ester Mosely.[10] It's possible that at this time, Robert Hampton may have moved to Waxahatchie, Texas, to live with his new wife, since their first child, Robert, was born there in 1902. John Hampton and his older brothers stayed in Seagoville to farm. James Isaac, the oldest brother, acted as foreman.[11]

This arrangement lasted for several years, and then, in 1905, when John Hampton was twenty-two years old, his father died of an illness.[12] It was about this time that John Hampton struck out on his own.

Bronc Rider

During the following years, John Hampton worked at a number of different jobs. Several of his jobs involved working with horses. "Dad was a horseman, an animal lover," remembers Raymond Hurt, a son.[13] "At one time, he worked on a ranch in West Texas." Reggie Hurt, another son, said, "He rode broncs. He and Uncle George Roberts (a future brother-in-law) were cowboys. Dad broke both arms (at different times) riding wild horses." Reggie also said his father worked on the King Ranch and had even helped take a herd of horses to Dodge City, Kansas.[14]

John Hampton wasn't afraid of hard work. And if breaking wild horses wasn't dangerous enough for him, he also worked on a riverboat in the Trinity River dynamiting tree stumps. It may have been about this time that he made his first trip to Oklahoma. He and George Roberts, a future brother-in-law, would visit Oklahoma in the summer and pick cotton. Another future brother-in-law, Till (John Patilla) Roberts, had already moved near Marietta, Oklahoma, in Love County.[15]

John and George were well known for their wrestling abilities. Family stories by John Hampton's children relate how he and George would visit carnivals and take on the visiting wrestlers, winner take all. John Hampton seldom

lost. At family outings, the adults would stage their own wrestling exhibitions. John Hampton and George usually ended up matched against each other. Later on, a test of manhood for John Hampton's children would be to see if they could throw "the old man." There are no stories saying they ever did.

John and Naomi

Sometime around 1908, John Hampton Hurt took time out from his travels to marry Naomi Elnora Roberts. She was a native of Kaufman County and lived with her mother near Combine, Texas. Naomi had known John Hampton since they were children. She told her children she and her husband used to play house together when they were young. They would build a playhouse, she would play the mother and John Hampton would be the father. George Roberts, Naomi's brother, was one of John Hampton's closest friends and traveling companions.[16]

The Promised Land

Oklahoma had just become a state in 1907 and the land in southern Oklahoma promised a new start for John Hampton and Naomi. Sometime around 1910, before their first child was born, they left for Marietta, Oklahoma. "They came to Oklahoma from Seagoville in a covered wagon," John Junior Hurt said. "They forded the Red River

and Dad had 6 cents in his pocket. They settled at Marietta to sharecrop."[17]

While in Marietta, Robert was born about 1910 and Reggie Hampton was born on August 8, 1912. When Reggie was about two-years old, Robert hung his neck under a swinging gate and choked to death. Two-year-old Reggie tried to tell his parents Robert was in trouble, but they didn't understand what he was trying to say until it was too late.[18] After Robert's death, another son, Raymond Joseph, was born on November 22, 1914.[19]

By this time, John Hampton was having problems with the elements in his attempts to make a go of farming. After losing his crops to hail for several years in a row, he decided in 1916 to move his family from Marietta to Oil City, Carter County, Oklahoma, for a new career in the booming oil business. Aubra, born October 2, 1916, and Florence, born April 19, 1919, were both born in Oil City, Oklahoma.[20]

The House On The Lease

After several years of working for Coal Line Oil Company in Oil City, "a man named McCowan, a boss for Twin States, asked Dad to come to work for him near Healdton," Vernon Hurt said. "Dad told the man if he would give him a company house, he would take the job. The man agreed. Dad went down and looked at the house. He said it was too

small. The man told Dad there was a larger house he could have so Dad decided to move."[21]

"We moved to Healdton in 1920," Raymond said. "We had one house burn down. It was down the hill near the power plant. Then the company built the other house up on the hill. That's the house Mother and Dad lived in until Dad retired. Dad started out on a drilling unit. They had a team of horses that pulled the unit. Men would crank the rods out of the well. The horses would pull the tubing. Later, Dad became the pumper at the power plant."[22]

Sun Oil

The Sun Oil Company later bought the Twin State Oil Company. John Hampton worked for Sun Oil until his retirement nearly 40 years later.[23]

While living on the Sun Oil lease near Healdton, two more children were added to the family. John Junior Hurt was born on July 17, 1921, and Vernon Durwood Hurt was born on February 28, 1923. Another child, Louise, was born later, but died of an illness after living only a few months. In addition to the children, Magara Lee Roberts, mother of Naomi, would occasionally live with the family.[24]

John Hampton Hurt worked hard to make sure his family had the basic necessities of life. Even though it has been twenty-seven years since his

death, his children still speak of him with admiration.

"Dad was a man's man," Raymond Hurt said. "He wasn't too hard to get along with, but when the chips were down, you'd better be on his side. He taught us to box, play ball and swim. Mother was always afraid we'd get hurt, but he didn't want to shelter us. He could outrun any of us until he was past fifty. He was also strong. He could lift more than anyone on the lease. He said when he was young, he could chin twenty-one times. I decided I would break his record. I worked hard at it, but the highest I ever got up to was nineteen."[25]

Naomi Hurt was the peacemaker. After losing her firstborn son, Robert, she worried that an accident would take another. She also worked hard to take care of her family. Naomi often had problems with her health, but the family always came first.

Picking Cotton For Cash

Raymond remembers a time when doctor bills required more cash than the Hurts had on hand. "We went to the cotton fields," Raymond said, "and mother went too. She picked more cotton than any of the boys. One year we took a tent and went into the cotton country around Comanche. We stayed for about six weeks and picked cotton everyday. Dad stayed home, worked and kept the younger boys."[26]

Being a little short of cash seemed to be one of the worst problems the Hurts had. Even the Depression didn't cause undue hardships.

"During the Depression, we fared pretty well," Raymond said. "We had a couple of cows, chickens, several pigs and two gardens. Mother and Dad were both good gardeners. We were usually a little short of cash, but Dad had as good a job as anyone. We really didn't suffer."[27]

Wicked Wirt

While John and Naomi provided shelter, food and guidance for their sometimes rowdy children, the evils of oil field life swirled around them. An article in the *Petroleum Journal* in March 1916 detailed the "Wickedness of Wirt," a small boomtown just a few miles from the Hurt residence:

> *".....so eager were oilmen to share in the abundance of Healdton oil that by May 1916, the field had 1,600 producing wells, seventy others being drilled, and fifty or more rigs being erected.*
>
> *"The very bounty of nature turned into a nightmare.*
>
> *"No one thought of shutting off a well then. They thought that would ruin one. And so the oil, floods of it, filled storage tanks, earthen reservoirs, and finally gullies*

and streams. More oil flowed down the creeks and was wasted. Heavy rains floated oil down Whiskey Creek. It then would cascade into Walnut Bayou, where farmers set it on fire to keep it from ruining their crops. Awesome columns of black smoke rose high in the air--a spectacular sight that could be seen for many miles.

"Fires were common in the Healdton field. Lightening striking the huge oil tanks, or the oil-soaked ground around them, caused horrendous blazes. Wirt--at first a mere collection tents and shacks called Rag Town in the heart of the field--burned down several times. One fire was caused by a fellow cleaning clothes who put his iron into gasoline instead of water.

"Rag Town--and the field around it--was no place for sissies. 'I have been in the oil fields for the past 25 years,' the Daily Ardmoreite quoted a man as saying in 1915, 'but I have never seen a place as rough as the Healdton field is now.' Brazen robbers held up derrick crews on the job.

"Roustabout John P. "Slim" Jones arrived at Rag Town in 1915 looking for work. Years later he wrote a book and dedicated it to the 'oil field workers who lost their lives in the Rag Town field.'

"Jones said that a few days after his arrival, the bodies of four men were found in an oil storage tank. 'They probably had been there for some time,' he commented dryly. 'It did not seem to be anything unusual to find dead men lying around.'

"Rag Town he described as a place where 'wild women were plentiful, gambling houses were wide open and whiskey was sold over the bar.'

"Hijackers were plentiful. One night I was going to my cot to try to rest the remainder of the night and some bird said, 'Stick 'em up!' I said, 'What for?' He replied, 'So they won't be in the way while I get that change out of your pocket.' I asked him if his conscience didn't hurt him for taking my last penny. 'No,' he replied. 'I have done it for so long until it don't bother me a bit.'"[28]

A Christian Upbringing

Naomi tried to offset the wickedness with a strong dose of goodness. Like her mother, Magara Lee Roberts, Naomi was a firm believer in the Baptist Church and made sure her children got the message. Even John Hampton joined the church, although he held out until he was in his fifties.[29]

If Sunday morning worship was inconvenient, Naomi worked to make it easier. When the Hurt

family first moved to their house on the lease, there was no church nearby. Undaunted, Naomi asked for permission to use a schoolhouse for worship services. Later she attended the First Baptist Church of Wirt, and later, the First Baptist Church in Healdton.[30]

After John Hampton retired, he and Naomi moved to Healdton. For a man who had worked hard all his life, retirement would be all too brief. Within a short time, John Hampton was diagnosed as having cancer. He died in May 1953 and is buried at Rosehill Cemetery in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Naomi died also died of cancer not too long afterwards on March 19, 1955. She is buried beside John Hampton.

Children of John and Naomi Hurt

Robert Hurt was the firstborn of John and Naomi Hurt. He was born about 1910 and died about 1914. When Robert was about four-years old, he fell underneath a swinging gate and choked to death. Reggie Hampton Hurt, his younger brother, witnessed the death.[31]

Reggie Hampton Hurt was born on August 8, 1912, in Marietta, Oklahoma, in Love County. He was the second child of John and Naomi Roberts Hurt. Reggie married Norma Faye Carey on November 16, 1935. Norma Faye was born on April 21, 1915, near Wirt, Oklahoma, in Carter County. Reggie and Norma had one child, Donna Lorraine,

who was born on September 5, 1938, in Healdton, Oklahoma. Donna married Tary Don Wilkinson on June 13, 1959. Tary Don was born April 24, 1936, in Healdton. Donna and Tary have two children: Edwin Jay (born December 1, 1961, in Anchorage, Alaska) and Tari Lynn (born September 20, 1963, also in Anchorage).[32]

Reggie attended Wheeler and Dundee schools. In 1931, when he was nineteen- years old, he started to work for the Lone Star Oil Company. He also worked for several other oil companies, including Sun Oil Company, until World War II started. In 1942, Reggie enlisted in the U. S. Navy and was assigned to the Seabees, 14th Construction Battalion. He was at a number of locations in the South Pacific, including the Battle of Guadalcanal. "The Japs bombed us every day," Reggie said. "They were trying to get the airfield back."[33]

He was discharged on October 5, 1945, and went back to work in the oil fields near Healdton. He worked as a roughneck, with cable tools and at other oil field jobs. He later worked at a service station in Healdton and retired in 1974. He and Norma still live in Healdton.[34]

Raymond Joseph Hurt was the third child of John and Naomi Roberts Hurt. Raymond was born November 22, 1914, in Marietta, Oklahoma. He graduated from Dundee High School in 1932 and from Southeastern Oklahoma at Durant in 1935 with a B. S. Degree. Raymond taught at Dundee

High School for seven years before joining the Army in June 1942. He was assigned to an ordnance company and saw action in North Africa, Sicily, Corsica, Italy, France and Germany. His company was assigned at various times to Patton's 2nd Armored Division, the 3rd Infantry Division, the 45th Infantry Division and the 7th Army.[35]

He was discharged in October 1945. He returned to Oklahoma and immediately entered the University of Oklahoma at Norman, Oklahoma. He attended college there from January 1946 to January 1948 and left with a degree in accounting. After graduating, Raymond married Roxa Fern Oaks on May 23, 1948. He then went to work for the New State Ice Company in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He later worked for the Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma where he retired on December 31, 1980. Fern was an associate editor of Oklahoma's Baptist Messenger and retired after 36 years service. Raymond and Fern are active in the Olivet Baptist Church, which they joined in 1949. Raymond has been a deacon in the Baptist Church since he was twenty-one years old. Raymond and Fern live in Oklahoma City.[36]

Aubra (NMI) Hurt was the next child of John and Naomi Roberts Hurt. He was born on October 2, 1916, in Oil City, Oklahoma. He died on April 2, 1980, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.[37]

Aubra married Helen Jeanette Allen on June 9, 1942. Helen was born on June 25, 1919. Aubra and

Helen had one daughter, Rozanne, who was born on June 19, 1946. Helen and Rozanne both still live in Oklahoma City.[38]

Aubra lost his eyesight in an accident when he was fourteen. He attended Dundee schools before he lost his eyesight, and later, the School for the Blind in Muskogee, Oklahoma. In 1945, Aubra worked in the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Norman, Oklahoma. Later he operated a concession business in the Oklahoma State Capitol. He then operated another concession in the Federal Courthouse Building in Oklahoma City. He retired in 1975, five years before his death. Aubra loved to travel and would often take trips to visit friends and other Hurts. He kept in close touch with the second family of Robert Hampton Hurt, his grandfather, and the many Hurts in Seagoville, Texas. Aubra loved to play dominoes, and the game posed no handicap for him.[39]

Florence Evelyn Hurt, the first daughter born to John and Naomi Roberts Hurt, was born on April 19, 1919, in Oil City, Oklahoma. She graduated from Dundee in 1937 and after several jobs, was employed at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City. She worked there until her death in May 6, 1976.[40]

Florence was a favorite of the Hurt grandchildren and would spend hours reading to them or playing games. She was a kind, generous woman who loved her family and friends.

John Junior Hurt, my father, was born on July 17, 1921. He's discussed at length in Chapter 11.

Vernon Durwood Hurt, the youngest son of John and Naomi Roberts Hurt, was born on February 28, 1923, near Healdton, Oklahoma. He married Kathryn (Kay) Inman on February 12, 1947. Kathryn is a native of Konawa, Oklahoma. Like his brother Raymond, Vernon is also a deacon in the Baptist Church.[41]

Vernon graduated from Dundee High School in 1941. In February 1942, he entered the National Youth Association (NYA) school in Ardmore, Oklahoma, to learn arc welding. After completing the course at the NYA school, Vernon was employed at Mare Island, in Long Beach, California, building Liberty Ships.[42]

On November 14, 1942, he joined the U.S. Navy and went to boot camp in San Diego, California. From there, he attended a six-week school for ship fitters in San Francisco, California. He left there on January 28, 1943, for duty at the submarine base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Vernon went home to Oklahoma on leave in October 1945 and then reported to Norfolk, Virginia, for an assignment on the U.S.S. Fisk in a shakedown cruise to Cuba. As soon as the Fisk reached Cuba, Vernon was notified to report to Norman, Oklahoma, to be mustered out of the Navy. He received his honorable discharge in February 1946. Returning home, Vernon worked at several different jobs and

married Kay on February 12, 1947. Shortly afterwards, he started work, on September 15, 1947, as a roustabout with the Sun Oil Company. During his years with Sun Oil, Vernon also worked as a second class operator in a gas plant, first class engineer, recovery plant operator, relief lease operator, meterman, and for the last thirteen years, a gas meter repairman. These jobs took him from Gladewater, Texas; to Delhi, Louisiana; Sun Field in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas; Sweetwater, Texas; back to Delhi and then Sun Field; and finally Corpus Christi, where he retired after 37 years with the company. Vernon and Kay now live in Houston, Texas.[43]

Vernon and Kay have a son, Richard Dewayne Hurt, who was born on November 14, 1947, in Gladewater, Texas. Richard married Mary Kathy Jean, who was born on February 24, 1952, in Tampa, Florida. They have two children: Jean Michell, born September 8, 1979; and Matthew Wayne, born May 19, 1981. Richard and his family live in Houston.[44]

Louise Hurt was another child of John and Naomi Roberts Hurt. She was born near Healdton and lived only a few months before dying of an illness.[45]

The Roberts

Naomi Elnora Roberts Hurt, my grandmother, was born June 20, 1887, in Kaufman County, Texas, near Combine.[46] She was the daughter of George Sim, Jr., and Magara Lee Knowles Roberts. George and Magara had five other children: John Patilla, Ike, George Sim, Laura and Sam Joseph.[47]

What we know of George Sim Roberts, Jr., comes from the recollections of a granddaughter, Lucy Knutson. By examining the ages of George Sim's children, we know he was alive after 1890. He was dead by 1900 when the census of Texas that year shows Magara as the head of the household.[48]

George Sim, named for his father, was a farmer near Combine, Texas. His father, George Sim Roberts, Sr., lived nearby. George Sim, Jr., died in a buggy accident. Lucy Knutson remembers, "He was working with a wild horse. Before that, he had broken his arm. He hitched a wild horse up with another horse to his buggy. They ran away with him and threw him into a tree. It broke his neck."[49]

George Sim Roberts, Sr., was still alive when his son died. "He was a gambler," Lucy Knutson said. "He had a gambling joint in Dallas. I guess he was an honest man. Grandma (Magara Lee) said he caught a man cheating at poker and threw him out of a second-story window."[50]

Another story Lucy Knutson remembers involves Magara Lee and her father-in-law.

"Grandma (Magara Lee) had a bad knee and her daddy-in-law picked her up and put her in the buggy. He said, 'I'm taking you to get that knee cured ' and he took her to Mineral Wells to take a bath in the water there. Her knee got better."[51]

Further research may shed more light on these elusive Roberts.

Magara Lee Knowles

Magara Lee Knowles was born April 9, 1852, in Summerville, Mississippi.[52] Summerville was in Noxubee County, just a few miles from the boyhood home of Robert Hampton Hurt. It's possible the Knowles, Roberts and Hurts knew one another in Mississippi and moved as a group to seek their fortune in Texas.

Magara Lee, who was also called Maggie, was raised by an uncle. We do not know his name. She frequently talked about the horrors of the Civil War and about her uncle whipping a female slave for stealing snuff.[53] The rest of Magara Lee's early life is lost to us. Records do not show whether she married in Mississippi or Texas.

After George Sim Roberts, Jr., died, Magara married Leonard Mathis. He preceded Magara Lee in death. In her later years, Magara Lee divided her time between the homes of her children. "Dad called her 'grandmother,'" John Junior Hurt said. "She carried a big, feather mattress with her wherever she went." Magara may not have been in

the best of health then, but she was still spry enough to occasionally spank John Junior and Vernon Durwood, her grandchildren, when they misbehaved.[54]

Raymond Joseph Hurt remembers his grandmother as having had a hard life. "Grandma Roberts, at the time I knew her, wasn't all that old, but had lived a hard life," Raymond said. "She was kind of feeble by the time she was 70-years old. She was quiet. She would sit all day and work on her needlework, except on Sundays, and then she wouldn't touch it.[55]

"She also read her Bible everyday. She was something of a Bible scholar. She didn't have a concordance, like we do today. She had to remember where the scriptures were. I remember one day I was in the barbershop and a man said, 'preacher is not in the Bible.' When I got home, I told Grandma and she said, 'it certainly is,' and turned to Ecclesiastees and showed me."[56]

Several people remember similar stories about Magara Lee having strange ideas concerning home security. Both her daughter, Naomi, and Lucy Knutson told stories about Magara Lee taking them out into the fields at night to hide when the men were away from home. She also boiled pots of water to throw on any intruders. Lucy recalls she was more afraid of hiding out in the fields than being in the house.[57]

When Magara was in her eighties, she fell off a porch at daughter Naomi's house and broke her hip. With her health failing, she died on September 12, 1936, from a cerebral hemorrhage. She was buried in the Keller Cemetery in Oklahoma. She was 84-years, five-months and 12-days old when she died.[58]

Notes

[1]*1900 Census of Texas. Dallas County*. Microfilm

[2]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*. (Seagoville, TX: [Privately printed, 1989), p. 19.

[3]Dallas County, Texas. 1891 Tax Rolls--Dallas County, Precinct 4 (Dallas County, TX; Dallas County Records), p.196, number 21. Microfilm

[4]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through TimeWith The Hurt Family*, p. 23.

[5]Dallas County, Texas. 1892 Tax Rolls--Dallas County, Precinct 4 (Dallas County, TX; Dallas County Records), p.183, number 25. Microfilm

[6]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*, p. 33.

[7]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[8]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*, p. 11.

[9]*1900 Census of Texas. Dallas County.* Microfilm.

[10]Conversation with Leo Hampton (Hank) Hurt. Waco, Texas. July 8, 1990.

[11]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[12]R. L. Glenn, *A Walk Through Time With The Hurt Family*, p. 11.

[13]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[14]Conversation with Reggie Hampton Hurt. Healdton, Oklahoma. July 7, 1990.

[15]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[16]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[17]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[18]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[19]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[20]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[21]Conversation with Vernon Durwood Hurt. Houston, Texas. July 7, 1990.

[22]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[23]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[24]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[25]20Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[26]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[27]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[28]*Petroleum Gazette*, March, 1916.

[29]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[30]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[31]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[32]Conversation with Norma Carey Hurt. Healdton, Oklahoma. July 7, 1990.

[33]Conversation with Reggie Hampton Hurt. Healdton, Oklahoma. July 7, 1990.

[34]Conversation with Reggie Hampton Hurt. Healdton, Oklahoma. July 7, 1990.

[35]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[36]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[37]Conversation with Helen Allen Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. July 7, 1990.

[38]Conversation with Helen Allen Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. July 7, 1990.

[39]Conversation with Helen Allen Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. July 7, 1990.

[40]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[41]Conversation with Vernon Durwood Hurt. Houston, Texas. July 7, 1990.

[42]Conversation with Vernon Durwood Hurt. Houston, Texas. July 7, 1990.

[43]Conversation with Vernon Durwood Hurt. Houston, Texas. July 7, 1990.

[44]Conversation with Vernon Durwood Hurt. Houston, Texas. July 7, 1990.

[45]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[46]Standard Certificate of Death, State Department of Health. State File No. 003990. State of Oklahoma. Carter County.

[47]Conversation with Lucy Roberts Knutson. Durant, Oklahoma. June 25, 1990.

[48]*1900 Census of Texas. Dallas County.* Microfilm.

[49]Conversation with Lucy Roberts Knutson. Durant, Oklahoma. June 25, 1990.

[50]Conversation with Lucy Roberts Knutson. Durant, Oklahoma. June 25, 1990.

[51]Conversation with Lucy Roberts Knutson. Durant, Oklahoma. June 25, 1990.

[52]Standard Certificate of Death, State Department of Health. State File No. 295. State of Oklahoma. Carter County.

[53]Conversation with Lucy Roberts Knutson. Durant, Oklahoma. June 25, 1990.

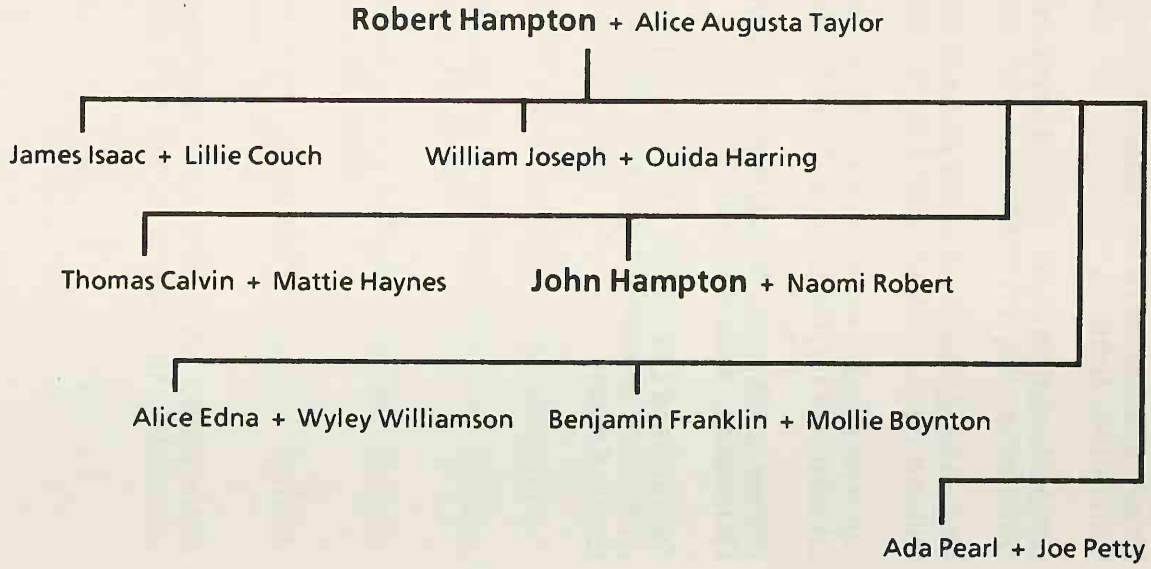
[54]Conversation with John Junior Hurt. Madill, Oklahoma. July 11, 1980.

[55]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[56]Conversation with Raymond Joseph Hurt. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. June 7, 1990.

[57]Conversation with Lucy Roberts Knutson. Durant, Oklahoma. June 25, 1990.

[58]Standard Certificate of Death, State Department of Health. State File No. 295. State of Oklahoma. Carter County.


Robert Hampton + Alice Augusta Taylor
James Isaac + Lillie Couch
William Joseph + Ouida Harring
Thomas Calvin + Mattie Haynes
John Hampton + Naomi Robert
Alice Edna + Wyley Williamson
Benjamin Franklin + Mollie Boynton
Ada Pearl + Joe Petty

Chapter 11

John Junior Hurt
--The Eleventh Generation--

John Junior, my father, represents the last chapter in this book. Rather than write his entire story, I've chosen to use some of his own words, taken from a recording made July 11, 1980, while we drove from Waco to Dallas, Texas.

Dad's Story

"I'm John Junior Hurt. I was born July 17, 1921, out in the oilfields from Wirt, Oklahoma. By the way, Junior is a middle name. It was supposed to have been John Hampton Hurt, Jr., but our old doctor, who drank quite a bit, got it wrong on the birth certificate.

"We lived in the oil fields about two miles from Healdton and I started to school in what they called the Little Magnolia grade school. I was five-years old. After I finished the second grade, I transferred to Dundee, which is three miles west of Healdton, Oklahoma. That's where I graduated from. The old Dundee school has been torn down, but they had twelve grades then. I remember some of

the rough times, the Depression years and some of the pranks we used to pull.

"My Dad was a lease operator for the Sun Oil Company. He worked for them 40 years and retired. He hadn't been retired six months when he came down with cancer and passed away when he was sixty-nine years old.

"After I graduated from high school, I went to business college in Oklahoma City for nine months. At that time, bookkeepers were making $12 a week. So I decided to join the U. S. Navy.

"I joined the Navy on July 16, 1940, at Dallas, Texas. I stayed in the Navy six years, and believe it or not, I came out of it with an honorable discharge. I was back in the States on December 7, 1941. In October 9, 1941, we were commissioned (the U.S.S. Hornet) and went out on a shakedown cruise. They ironed out all the little things that were wrong with the ship, then we headed down through the Panama Canal and went to Pearl Harbor. We were in Pearl Harbor the first part of February after they had been bombed in December. We left Pearl Harbor and went to the South Pacific and helped with the landing at Guadalcanal.

"I was a Pharmacist Mate, First Class. The Pharmacist Mate, First Class had to be able to

handle independent duty and had to be qualified, if called upon, to go out on a destroyer and be the only medical man on it. Luckily, I never had to do this. I was always on a larger ship where there were doctors.

"While aboard the USS Hornet, I had the privilege of seeing General Doolittle and his sixteen B-25s loaded. We steamed out of the harbor at Alameda, California, and headed for about 400 miles off the coast of Japan. Those sixteen B-25s, led by General Doolittle, bombed the city of Tokyo. Later on we were in the Battle of Midway and we lost our whole torpedo squadron with the exception of one man named Ensign Gay.

"After the Battle of Midway, we went back out into the South Pacific. The Hornet was sunk (at the Battle of Santa Cruz) when it was one year and nine days old. That was October 1942. The USS Enterprise and her task force was with the Hornet and her task force. We had a battle with three Japanese aircraft carriers and they won. After the Hornet was sunk, I was picked up by a destroyer. The next day, I was transferred by a boatswain's chair to a cruiser, the U.S.S. Nashville. It put in at New Caledonia. We were taken up in the hills and stayed for thirty days. All we had to do was eat, swim, fish and swap yarns.

"After that, we went aboard the U.S.S. Luraline, which the Navy had taken over. It was a luxury liner. It was a real nice cruise back to the states. We ate like kings. We'd sit at the table and they'd serve our food to us. We pulled in at San Diego, California. This was around the end of November 1942.

"All we had with us was what we brought off the ship, a pair of dungarees, a shirt and a pair of socks. When you abandoned ship, you always pulled your shoes off, and all the clothing you could stand. Of course, you wanted the white part of your skin covered because of the danger of sharks. In San Diego, we went to some kind of receiving camp. They issued us new clothing and gave us a new seabag. They also gave me a 37-day leave and told me to report in at the end of that leave to the 12th Naval District, New Orleans, Louisiana.

"A good friend of my mine, Wayne William Wells, was supposed to report in with me in New Orleans. He arrived a day early, was broke, so he had to go ahead and report in. They gave him his choice of anywhere in the 8th Naval District where he wanted to be stationed. He didn't have any particular place to go, but he knew I'd want to be close to Ardmore, Oklahoma. He picked the U.S. Naval Hospital at Norman, Oklahoma.

"The next day, I reported in and a yoeman had a message for me. He said, 'Wayne Wells was in the day before and wants you to come on to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Norman for duty.' A captain called me in and said they didn't have any openings at Norman. I kind of cried on his shoulder and he said he'd see what he could do. He made a couple of calls and hung up. He said, 'I know what ship you've been on and because of that, I'm going to let you go to Norman. There's not an opening, but they said they'd make one.'

"Wells and I didn't meet again until I arrived there for duty. I was at Norman, Oklahoma, from November 1942 until March of 1944. During that time I met Ellen Marie Schiemenz, who I later married. And Wayne Wells met his wife. Her name was Humes. They were married while they were there at the Naval Hospital. Ellen and I also got married at Norman. It was January 12, 1944.

"Now, Humes and Ellen were officers in the Nurses Corp of the U.S. Navy. They weren't allowed to date enlisted men. They were only allowed to date civilians and officers. If they decided to marry an enlisted man, they had to resign, and be discharged from the Nurses Corp. So when they put in for their resignation, they put down their reason. Everyone wondered how they fell in

love with two enlisted men when they weren't supposed to be dating them.

"Wells left before I did and went with the Marines out in the South Pacific. Jim Ury and T. J. Kyle left before I did. They also went with the Marines. I was just lucky. None of us wanted any part of the Marines. But, if your order came through to go with the Marines, you went with the Marines. My orders came in March of 1944 to go to a commissioning detail at Mobile, Alabama. I went down to Mobile and come to find out I was going to be working in a little shipyard in Chickasaw, Alabama. So Ellen and I found a place at Pritchard, Alabama. It was halfway between Mobile and Chickasaw.

"I was on independent duty. I was my own boss and had to call in once a week to the headquarters at New Orleans. My duty was to go aboard these ships that were going to be commissioned and work with the doctors to requisition everything we would need to outfit the sickbay on this new ship. All these doctors were young and had never been to sea, so I helped them with their requisitions.

"On November 12, 1944, Ronald Wayne was born. We were living in Pritchard, but Ron was born in Mobile. When Ellen and I would go to a movie, Ron was babysat by

about 50 sailors in the commissioning detail. I think every sailor on that base was pretty well acquainted with him.

"My orders came in about March or April of 1945 to go to Brooklyn, New York, catch a new hospital ship, named the U.S.S. Haven. So Ellen packed. She and Ron went back to Elm Mott, seven miles east of Waco, to stay with Ellen's mom and dad. I told them when I got to Brooklyn and found a place, I'd call them. When I got to Brooklyn, I found a place. It was kind of a hole in the wall, but there wasn't any place else to rent. So they came up and stayed about three months before the ship was to be commissioned. Ellen left one day before the ship was commissioned and went back to Elm Mott. The next day, the U.S.S. Haven was commissioned and headed out to sea, down through the Panama Canal and out into the South Pacific."[1]

John Junior Hurt was on board the U.S.S. Haven when it picked up the wounded from the landing at Iwo Jima. After the war ended, the Haven steamed on to Nagasaki, Japan, to pick up the liberated American prisoners of war. While in Japan, John viewed the results of the atom bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki.

After he was discharged from Navy in July 1946, he attended the Landig College of Mortuary Science in Houston, Texas. Ellen Marie took a job as a nurse. When John graduated from Landig's with his board certification as an embalmer and funeral director, he, Ellen and Ronald left for Oklahoma.

John's first job was with the Bettes Funeral Home in Healdton, Oklahoma. Ellen was a nurse in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

After working at the funeral home for two years, John went to work for the Magnolia Oil Company on August 4, 1948. Magnolia later became the Mobil Oil Corporation.

In 1952, Ellen was elected an officer in the Oklahoma Nurse's Association. On March 8, while returning from an association meeting in Oklahoma, Ellen's car was hit by another car and she was killed. Her funeral was in Healdton at the First Baptist Church and burial was at Rosehill Cemetary in Ardmore.

John remarried in January 1953. His second wife was Donna Rae Prollock. She was born in November 18, 1933, in Healdton, the daughter of Wesley and Lois Fore Prollock.

John then took his family to Kermit, Texas, where he had been transferred by Magnolia. While in Kermit, Donna gave birth to Mark Christopher Hurt on September 10, 1953. A second son, Michael Jonathon, was born on March 16, 1955.

In 1960, John, Donna and the three sons moved to Hobbs, New Mexico, where John had been transferred. In April of 1961, the Hurts left Hobbs to return to Texas. John was transferred to a job in Wichita Falls, but the family lived in Electra. After Ronald left home in 1963 to attend Baylor University, the Hurts moved to Iowa Park, Texas, and later to Midland, Texas.

While in Midland, Donna died suddenly of cardiac arrest on January 1, 1970. John continued on in Midland and was later transferred back to Healdton, to a field office. He worked less than a mile from the site of the house he had grown up in. John retired from Mobil on December 31, 1985, after working for Mobil for 37 years. He presently lives at Bridgeview Resort, near Madill, Oklahoma.

John Hurt's Children

Ronald Wayne Hurt was born on November 12, 1944, in Mobile, Alabama. He graduated from Electra High School and attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas. After two years at Baylor, he served four years in the U.S. Air Force, with assignments in San Antonio, Greece and Michigan. After his discharge from the Air Force, he returned to Baylor and received his B.A. Degree in 1972. He received his M.S. Degree in 1973 from East Texas State University in Commerce, Texas. Ronald is presently employed with the Army and Air Force Exchange Service in Dallas, Texas.

Ronald married Kathy Jean Denton on March 25, 1972. She was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, on December 4, 1949. Kathy is the daughter of Robert Wilson and Sue Collins Denton. Ronald and Kathy have twin daughters. Erin Allison and Emily Ellen were born on March 20, 1979, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mark Christopher Hurt was born on September 10, 1953, in Kermit, Texas. Mark graduated from Ardmore High School in 1972. He attended Murray State College in Tishomingo, Oklahoma, and graduated in 1978 from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma. Mark received a Master's Degree from Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma. He finished his requirements for an administrative certificate from the Oklahoma University in 1987.[2]

Mark married Luann Babb. Luann was born in Wichita Falls, Texas, on September 15, 1959. They have a son, Christopher Patrick, who was born April 17, 1983. Mark and Luann are schoolteachers in Midland, Texas.[3]

Michael Jonathon Hurt was born March 16, 1955, in Kermit, Texas. Michael graduated from Midland High School in 1973. In Michael's senior year, Midland won the state 4-A baseball championship and Michael was chosen as the all-state shortstop. Michael attended college at East Central University where he graduated in 1981. Michael received his master's degree in 1985.[4]

Michael married Patricia Oweta Skrimager on December 16, 1978. Patricia was born on April 18, 1958, in Fresno, California. Michael and Patricia also have twins. Jonathon Douglas and Adrienne Elizabeth were born on March 12, 1986, in McAlester, Oklahoma. Michael is a teacher and coach at Allen High School in Allen, Oklahoma.[5]

Ellen Marie Schiemenz

Ellen Marie Schiemenz was born October 15, 1917, in Elm Mott, Texas. She was the daughter of George William and Selma Marie Keller Schiemenz. Both Ellen's grandparents were first-generation Americans. The Schiemenzs were from Germany, and the Kellers from Switzerland. Ellen graduated from Waco High School in Waco, Texas, in 1935. She received her nurse's training in Waco and later joined the U.S. Navy Nursing Corp. She married John Junior Hurt on January 12, 1944, in Norman, Oklahoma. Ellen was working as a nurse in Ardmore at the time of her death on March 8, 1952.

The Schiemenzs

Ellen Marie Schiemenz was the daughter of George William and Selma Marie Keller Schiemenz. George William, a farmer, was born on August 11, 1890, near Tours, Texas, in McLennan County. Selma Marie Keller was born on April 13, 1892, in New Baden, Robertson County, Texas.

George William and Selma Marie had three other children: Arthur Fred, born May 30, 1915; Gladys Elenore, born November 1, 1919; and Dorothy, born July 23, 1924.[7]

NOTES

[1]Conversation with John Junior Hurt, July 11, 1980. Madill, Oklahoma.

[2]Conversation with Mark Christopher Hurt, younger brother of Ronald Wayne Hurt. July 14, 1990. Midland, Texas.

[3]Conversation with Mark Christopher Hurt. July 14, 1990. Midland, Texas.

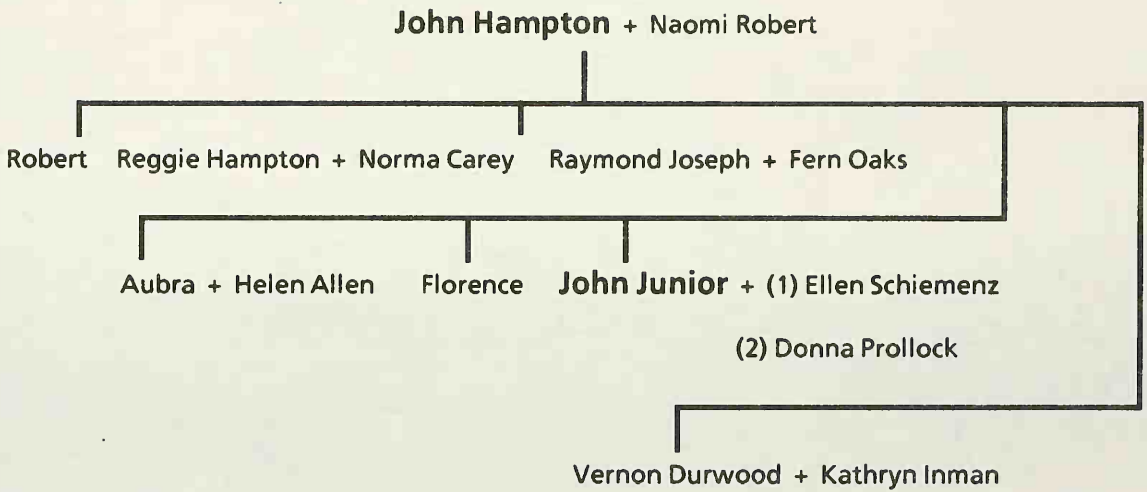
[4]Conversation with Michael Jonathon Hurt youngest brother of Ronald Wayne Hurt. July 14, 1990. Allen, Oklahoma.

[5]Conversation with Michael Jonathon Hurt. July 14, 1990. Allen, Oklahoma.

[6]Conversation with Gladys Elenore Neckar, maternal aunt of Ronald Wayne Hurt. July 14, 1990. Elm Mott, Texas.

The Family of John Hampton and Naomi Roberts Hurt

Back row, from left to right, includes John Hampton, Reggie Hampton, Aubra, John Junior, Vernon Durwood and Raymond Joseph. Second row is Naomi Elenore, Norma Faye, Hellen, Ellen Marie, Kay, Florence Evelyn and Roxa Fern. First row is Donna Lorraine, Rozanne, Ronald and Richard.


John Hampton + Naomi Robert
Robert
Reggie Hampton + Norma Carey
Raymond Joseph + Fern Oaks
Aubra + Helen Allen
Florence
John Junior + (1) Ellen Schiemenz
(2) Donna Prollock
Vernon Durwood + Kathryn Inman

Major Hurt enclaves in their movement west: from Caroline County (near Bowling Green), Virginia, to Amelia County (near Amelia), Virginia, to Bedford (Bedford County), Virginia, to Columbia (Maury County), Tennessee, to Mashulaville (Noxubee County), Mississippi, to Seagoville (Dallas County), Texas, to Healdton (Carter County), Oklahoma.

Alabama Census

1830

Name	County
James Hurt	Morgan
P. Hurt	Franklin
Philemon Hurt	Limestone
William Hurt	Monroe

1840

Name	County	Page
H. H. Hurt	Jackson	024
Henry Hurt, Jr.	Russell	026
Joel Hurt, Jr.	Russell	026
Joel Hurt, Sr.	Russell	027
William Hurt	Russell	026
William Hurt	Jackson	072

1850 Alabama Census

Name	County	Page
Abram Hurt	Pike	203
H. H. Hurt	Marengo	005
Isaac Hurt	Perr	262
James Hurt	Laud	289
Joel Hurt	Russell	033
John Hurt	Pike	252
John H. Hurt	Madison	443
Kindred Hurt	Pike	203
Louisa Hurt	Russell	070
Mary Hurt	Morgan	236
Susan Hurt	Franklin	164
William Hurt	Pike	203

Mississippi Census

1830

Name	County	Males-Females
John Hurt	Hinds	00100-11000
William P. Hurt	Madison	00100-01000

Explanation of count for free entries: under 10; 10 to 20; 20 to 40; 40 to 60; 60 and over.

Mississippi Census

1840

Name	County	Page	Males-Females	Slaves
John Hurt	Hinds	197	21000001-011001	0000-1011
Moses Hurt	Tippah	199	00002	
William Hurt	Clarke	133	10012001-01021001	0000-31
William P. Hurt	Madison	111	200001-00001	00001-0001

Explanation of count for free entries: under 5; 5 to 10; 10 to 15; 15 to under 20; 20 to under 30; 30 to under 40; 40 to under 50; 50 to under 60; 60 to under 70; 70 to under 80; etc.

Explanation of count for slaves: under 10; 10 to 24; 24 to 36; 36-55; 55-100.

North Carolina Census

1790

Head of Family	County	Family Members
Jesse Hurt	Montgomery	4
Joseph Hurt	Montgomery	5
John Hurt	Surry	12

Count explanation:

1800

Head of Family	County	Count
James Hurt	Wilkes	00010-00100-04
Jesse Hurt	Mecklenburg	32010-21010-00
John Hurt	Surry	20010-10100-00
Lydia Hurt	Currituck	00010-21100-02
Mary Hurt	Surry	00200-12010-00
Joel Hurt	Surry	30010-00010-00

Explanation of count: Same as 1830.

North Carolina Census
(Continued)

1810

Name	County
Jesse Hurt	Montgomery
Joel Hurt	Surry
John Hurt	Surry
Robert Hurt	Surry
William Hurt	Surry
Zacheus Hurt	Person
Zackias	Person

1820

Head of Family	County
Daniel P. Hurt	Craven
Harrison H. Hurt	Rockingham
Robert Hurt	Surry
Wagstaff Hurt	Rutherford
William Hurt	Surry

South Carolina Census

1790

Head of Family	WhiteMales Under 16	White Males 16 and Up
Joel Hurt	1	2

Free White Females	Slaves
2	0

1800

Head of Family	County
James Hurt	Spartenburg
Joel Hurt	Spartenburg
John Hurt	Spartenburg
Joseph Hurt	Fairfield
Joseph Hurt	Spartenburg
William Hurt	Spartenburg
William Hurt	Spartenburg

South Carolina Census
(Continued)

1820

Head of Family	County	Count
Abraham Hurt	Edgefield	100100-00100
Joel Hurt	Spartanburg	000010-01010
John Hurt	Edgefield	111010-10101
Joseph Hurt	Spartanburg	310010-11010
Joseph Hurt	Chester	000010-10010
Thomas Hurt	Spartanburg	200010-00102
William Hurt	Edgefield	000110-00102

Census count same as 1830

Tennessee Census

1820

Head of Family	County	Count
Elizabeth Hurt	Davidson	2301 01001
Bird Hurt	Maury	1001 1001
Harmon Hurt	Bedford	
Henry Hurt	Davidson	100010 00100
James Hurt, Jr.	Maury	31001 11001
James Hurt, Sr.	Maury	000001 10011
John Hurt	Montgomery	000022 00101
Moses Hurt	Maury	200010 21010
Phillip Hurt	Davidson	310011 10110

Census count same as 1830

Tennessee Census

1830

Name	County	Page	Male	Female
Albert Hurt	Morgan	91		
Bird S Hurt	Maury	393	1100201	1210010
Benjamin Hurt	Davidson	257	120001	100010
Burgess Hurt	Cocke	269		
David Hurt	Bledsoe	271		
Elijah Hurt	Hardin	350		
Elisha Hurt	Maury		0000001	0000001
Elizabeth Hurt	Davidson	359	230100	01001
Floyd Hurt	Davidson	286	1030101	0101010
Garland Hurt	Jefferson	323		
Harden Hurt	Henderson	76		
Harmon K. Hurt	Maury	326		
Hempley Hurt	Lincoln	192	100110	100010
Henry Hurt	Davidson	374	100010	00100
Isaac Hurt	Warren	310	1101101	20201
James Hurt	Roan	25		
James Hurt, Sr.	Maury		000001	10011
James Hurt, Jr.	Maury		31001	11010
James Hurt M.	Carroll	155		

Tennessee Census

1830
(Continued)

Name	County	Page	Male	Female
John Hurt	Henderson	76		
John Hurt	Lincoln	188	100101	1001
John Hurt	Wilson	122	00001	00001
Joseph Hurt	Bledsoe	271		
Mary Hurt	Maury	368		
Moses Hurt	Maury		20001	21010
Philemon Hurt	Sumner		21112111	0101001
Purlton Hurt	Roan	25		
Phillip Hurt	Davidson		310011	10110
Robert Hurt	Carroll	157		
William Hurt	Davidson	212	001000001	100010001
William Hurt	Davidson	212		

Male:under 10; 10-16; 16-18;16-26;26-45;over 45
Female: under 10; 10-16; 16-26;26-45;over 45

Tennessee Census

1840

Name	County	Page	Male	Female
Albert Hurt	Meigs	209	21101	10001
Benjamin Hurt	Davidson	314	1111001	1010001
Elisha Hurt	Marshall	207	00000001	0000001
Floyd Hurt	Davidson	298	0010101	10020001
Gittleton Hurt	Roane	55	010001	10101
Granvill C. Hurt	Carroll	57	00001	0001
Jackson Hurt	Hardin	257	10011	10101
James Hurt	Henders.	345	0011001	1211001
James Hurt	Jefferson	315	00001	00001
James M. Hurt	Carroll	55	1111101	210101
John Hurt	Davidson	312	120001	100001
John Hurt	Henders.	341	1011001	111101
John B. Hurt	Marshall	175	10001	0
John M. Hurt	Hardin	439	00012001	0101101001
Mary Hurt	Marshall	198	00012	00100001
Robert Hurt	Carroll	54	00001001	011100101
Sandifer Hurt	Davidson	315	00001	00001
Susan A. Hurt	Maury	392	0001	0012001

Tennessee Census

1840
(Continued)

Name	County	Page	Male	Female
Susannah Hurt	Jefferson	315	1411	000200101
Talton Hurt	Roane	48	021001	1001001
W. W. Hurt	Carroll	33	200101	000001
William Hurt	Dyer	94	011101	2110100001
William Hurt	Warren	217	00001	00001

Virginia Census

1790

Heads of Families

Name	County	Family Members	Dwelling/ Out Blds.	Date
Absolam Hurt	Amelia	6	1--3	1785
Absolum Hurt	Amelia	5	1--3	1782
Benjamin Hurt	Prince Edward	6	1--2	1783
Benjamin Hurt	Prince Edward	7	1--5	1785
James Hurt	Powhaten	7	1--0	1785
James Hurt	Halifax	2	1--1	1785
James Hurt	Prince Edward	10	1--2	1785
John Hurt	Albemarle	10	1--2	1785
Joseph Hurt	Norfolk	6	1--3	1785
Moses Hurt	Amelia	4	1--9	1782
Moses Hurt	Pittsylvania	9	1--4	1782
Moza Hurt	Halifax	14	1--9	1782
Moza Hurt	Halifax	8	1--8	1785
Obadiah Hurt	Prince Edward	2	1--3	1785
Philemon Hurt	Halifax	4	1--4	1782
Philemon Hurt	Mecklenburg	7	1--5	1782
Philemon Hurt	Halifax	6	1--6	1785
William Hurt	Amelia	8	2--5	1785
William Hurt	Amelia	6	2--4	1785
William Hurt, Sr.	Amelia	6	1--17	1782
Zachariah	Amelia	8	1--4	1785
Zacharias	Amelia	7	1--9	1782

Virginia Census

1810

Head of Family	County	Page
Absolum Hurt	Lunenburg	346
Ann Hurt	Caroline	907
Anson Hurt	Amelia	239
Benjamin Hurt	Caroline	906
Elizabeth Hurt	Culpepper	39
Elizabeth Hurt	Wythe	835
Francis Hurt	Prince Edward	569
Henry Hurt	Bedford	464
James Hurt	Bedford	463
James Hurt	Middlesex	389
James Hurt	Orange	24
James Hurt	Prince Edward	571
James Hurt, Sr.	Bedford	464
James Hurt	Henrico	13
John Hurt	Nottoway	1
John Hurt	Bedford	464
John Hurt	Prince Edward	570
Josiah Hurt	Prince Edward	572
Lew Hurt	Lunenburg	346
Macon Hurt	Lunenburg	343
Mary Hurt	Bedford	464
Meriwether Hurt	Lunenburg	346
Mourning Hurt	Culpepper	39
Nancey Hurt	Mecklenburg	629
Obadiah Hurt	Prince Edward	571
Pleasant Hurt	Wythe	836
Ruth Hurt	Bedford	464

Virginia Census

1810
(Continued)

Stephen Hurt	Bedford	466
West Hurt	King & Queen	166
William Hurt	Craig	908
William Hurt	Middlesex	389
William Hurt, Jr.	Middlesex	389
Zachariah Hurt	Wythe	836

Virginia Census

1820

Head of Family	County	Page
Absalom Hurt	Lunenberg	169
Agnes Hurt	Campbell	137A
Allen Hurt	Mecklenberg	146
Ann Hurt	Caroline	167A
Anson Hurt	Amelia	8A
Benjamin Hurt	Caroline	168A
Cary Hurt	Cumberland	103A
Colby Hurt	Bedford	12A
Elizabeth A. Hurt	Bedford	12
Ezekiah Hurt	Prince Edward	153
Garland Hurt	Russell	143A
George Hurt	Bedford	13A
J. Hurt	Northumberland	97
James Hurt	Albemarle	27
James Hurt	Madison	104
James Hurt	Pittsylvania	78A
Joel Hurt	Madison	103A
John Hurt	Amelia	8A
John Hurt	Bedford	12A
John Hurt	Bedford	12A
John Hurt	Prince Edward	153A
John Hurt	Norfolk	125
John Hurt	Nottoway	46A
John M. Hurt	Halifax	61A
Lew Hurt	Lunenberg	169
Macin Hurt	Russell	144A
Mary Hurt	Bedford	12A

Virginia Census

1820
(*Continued*)

Mary Hurt	Patrick	113A
Meriwether Hurt	Lunenberg	169
Mildred Hurt	Bedford	12A
Moses Hurt	Russell	143A
Munford Hurt	Lunenberg	168A
Philip Hurt	Mecklenbert	147A
Robert Hurt	Halifax	85A
Sarah Hurt	Madison	104
William Hurt	Bedford	11A
William Hurt	Caroline	167A
William Hurt	Culpeper	78
William Hurt	Madison	103A
William Hurt	Mecklenbert	142A
William D. Hurt	Russell	143A
William C. Hurt	Bedford	11A

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Tidewater to Texas

by Ronald Wayne Hurt

The true wordsmith, like the diligent and resourceful historian, spends countless hours pouring over dusty tomes and patiently filling files with facts written on cards, bits of paper - anything at hand, for his or her art is to be for more generations than the immediate. The serious scholar, like the finest painter, puts his or her ink on paper like oils to a canvas, writing large the panorama of details that drape themselves around the naked frame of stark reality.

It is not uncommon for each generation to produce a giant among pygmies in the fields of art, but rare is it for a generation to produce two artists in one mortal frame. The unexpected happened, as if the gods of yore had been routed from beds of myth in the darkest recesses of fantasy, in a once sleepy town in a state now beset with growing pains as it stretches to understand its cobwebbed past.

Ronald Wayne Hurt spent unnumbered hours in libraries from Dallas to Oklahoma, Mississippi, coupled with fact finding forages into other states in quest of first hand information. Unwilling to settle for microfilmed and microfiche copies of original colonial and later settler records, this dedicated scholar poured ponderously over books buried under graying layers of dust, forgotten by the current generation more attuned to personal pastimes and incidental interests than any concerted concrete concern for the past or appreciation for what may be their future. From family bibles to long, sober stays in family cemeteries, Ronald Wayne Hurt copied copious every word he could find on the Hurt family, and then returned to Dallas to write, rewrite, revise, and rewrite again, never satisfied, always hungering to turn his words to sterling prose that would capture the minds of men and women, and fire the passionate quest for truth in future generations.

In his triumphant entry into the world of history, **Ronald Wayne Hurt** gives a lucidly account of his heritage, and a serious study of the migrations of his people who went from the unsettled wildernesses of early colonial Carolinas, to the wild plains of the Midwest. ***Tidewater to Texas*** is more than a genealogy, for as master craftsman works with precious metals, carefully layering them over stable alloys, **Ronald Wayne Hurt** polishes to a lustrous finish the base of each generation and then adorns it with a rare leafing of oral history embellished by detailed records gleaned from county and state documents on tax levies, census, and inventories.

While ***Tidewater to Texas*** offers numerous family trees, and full oral histories by those ancients still living, **Ronald Wayne Hurt** also adds the spice of every day events no matter how sharp, for each quickens the mind like patiently rubbed paprika powderedly pounds the tastebuds of the tongue with its savory tartness when mixed in any sauce.

Ronald Wayne Hurt's treasury of information now banked in his classic ***Tidewater to Texas***, adds dramatically to the legacy of this nation. It is in ***Tidewater to Texas*** that the reader find it all: a truly poignant picture of transmigrational America. In time, this rare book born from the talent of one of the nation's most promising emerging writers, is certain to become a must read for those searching diligently to find their roots and on the solid foundation of their origins build a lasting, glorious future.

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